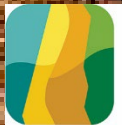


Town of Cheshire Open Space and Recreation Plan

February, 2025



BRPC
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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Acknowledgements

The Town of Cheshire would like to thank the Cheshire Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee members who donated their time and vision to the development and completion of this plan. The Town also wishes to thank the community members who participated in the open space and recreational survey and workshops, which provided the foundation for the recommendations of this plan. The Town would also like to acknowledge the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, which provided technical assistance in the development of the plan.

The Town of Cheshire wishes to acknowledge and is thankful for its agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the District Local Technical Assistance Program, without which this plan could never have been completed.

Figure 1: Fisherman on the Cheshire Reservoir



Section 1: Plan Summary

Background

The town of Cheshire produced its first Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) in 1991 and again in 2000 but hasn't updated the plan since that point. The Town created a Master Plan in 2017, which makes a variety of recommendations for implementation. The previous Open Space and Recreation Plans and Master Plan were used extensively to develop priorities for the current Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP.) The town sought feedback from the community through a public survey and public forum. This community input was also used to prioritize the goals and actions of this current open space plan.

Recognition of the need to update the plan and enable the town to access state grant funding provided the incentive for the current update. The earlier plans addressed issues of resource protection, conservation of lands and historic structures. Planning was also identified as an important piece in protecting the character of the town. The 2025 version takes that one step further, asking residents if the town should expend resources to move some of the objectives forward.

Cheshire residents value its rural, wild, and natural character. They use the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and Cheshire/Hoosac/Hoosic Reservoir extensively and recognize that these resources need management and protection to remain community resources. They recognize the importance of incorporating climate mitigation into planning models. The Town is able to use its Right of First Refusal in the Chapter 61 state tax abatement program to conserve land for public enjoyment of history, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation.

Need for Open Space and Recreation in Cheshire

The 2025 plan incorporates residents' needs while addressing the part that comprehensive land protection can play in making a community more resilient and prosperous in a changing climate. A review of past OSRP plans, the 2017 Master Plan, and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) and Hazard Mitigation Plans (2023) demonstrate that residents continue to prioritize goals that are unmet, a need to evaluate the success of projects already undertaken and assess current development trends within the context of climate mitigation. This 2025 Plan provides an opportunity to do each of these tasks with the support of community members and town boards.

The MVP Plan showed the Town's interest in understanding the town's flood plains, wetlands and ability to reconnect them to reduce the likelihood of flooding during high water events. Cheshire residents expressed a desire to be proactive, protecting its most valuable wildlife corridors, intact water resources, and open spaces while strengthening its access to outdoor recreation. Safeguarding Cheshire's rural character, numerous existing outdoor recreation opportunities, and its historic districts continue to be a priority.

Stewardship of natural spaces and rural character were identified as key factors to the success of the Town's ability to serve residents and attract visitors and second homeowners. The importance of sharing and caretaking what is already available was highlighted in our research. Identifying, through data supported research, areas that are appropriate for slow but steady growth, without diminishing what makes Cheshire a unique healthy climate resilient community, are incorporated in the goals set out in this 2025 OSRP.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan identifies the existence of numerous large, undivided, unprotected parcels that could be used to link other parcels to create wildlife corridors. Cheshire's most notable recreational attractions are Cheshire Reservoir and the large Federal and state-owned properties that extend into neighboring communities, such as Mount Greylock State Reservation, the Appalachian Trail, the Chalet Wildlife Management Area, and the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. The 2024 survey of residents identified residents' desire for recreation, including a majority of residents that would like improvements to the Cheshire Reservoir. When asked what the most important resource to be conserved in Cheshire, 67 of 121 respondents stated that Cheshire Reservoir was the top priority. Other popular answers were water resources of all types (streams, rivers, and groundwater), farmland, and conservation land.

The recognition, across the state, of a changing climate has increased the need for strategic planning. Directing priorities based on research so that next steps in protecting open spaces and especially the Cheshire Reservoir will make the town more resilient and attractive to residents and visitors. Increasing residents' access to and knowledge of recreational offerings without diminishing the wild spaces they value is a priority for the updated plan.

This 2025 Open Space and Recreation Plan captures the history and context of the Town of Cheshire that makes it a key component in the rural character of Berkshire County.

Section 2:

Introduction

2A. Statement of Purpose

The Cheshire community's vision for the protection of open space and accessible outdoor recreation includes protecting its treasured natural resources and parks and maintaining the scenic beauty. This Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) notes existing resources and describes key trends and issues regarding open space and outdoor recreation. It also establishes refreshed goals, objectives, and actions to achieve its vision. This document is a critical step in helping the Town to prioritize open space preservation as it advances economic development plans. Cheshire can use this document to guide growth in a manner consistent with open space preservation tenets while addressing the development needs of the Town and its residents.

2B. Planning Process and Public Participation

In September 2023, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) met for the initial planning meeting with the goal of creating and submitting to the Division of Conservation Services the Town of Cheshire's updated OSRP.

Table 1: Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee Members

Committee Member	Interest/affiliation
Jason Levesque	Chair, Select Board
Art Kaufman	Secretary, Planning Board Alternate
Liseann Karandisecky	Hoosac Lake Recreational/Preservation District
Jennifer Gadbois	Cheshire Citizen
Peter Traub	Planning Board, Council on Aging

The Advisory Committee posted meeting information and materials created during the planning process on the Town's website under the Committees tab of the website. Initial meetings were held via Zoom technology, but later meetings were in-person. All meetings were held and publicly posted in accordance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

To solicit the public's input the following were undertaken:

- Committee Meetings: 9/6/23, 11/8/2023, 1/10/2024, 2/7/2024, 3/20/2024, 7/10/2024, 8/14/2024, 9/18/2024, 10/2/2024, 11/6/2024, 12/4/2024
- Public Survey, hosted on SurveyMonkey with Paper copies available at the Town Hall, Council on Aging, and Public Library
 - Survey publicized at COA Luncheon and Town Cleanup Day
 - Survey open from 3/1/2024-5/17/2024
 - Survey responses- 148 total responses
- Public Forum- Cheshire Community House 10/9/2024
- Draft OSRP posted on the Town's website from 12/6/2024 to 1/6/2025.

Figure 2 Picnic Table on Hoosac Reservoir



The Public Survey was advertised on the Town's website, using flyers posted at public buildings, and through the Council on Aging's Newsletter, the Cheshire Chatter. BRPC staff and committee members publicized the survey at Council on Aging luncheons and at town volunteer days. The Survey and Forum were both advertised on the Town's calendar and Facebook page.

This OSRP builds on several planning initiatives and documents that have been developed by the Town of Cheshire. The 2017 Master Plan was the result of a comprehensive planning process that evolved over a two-year period. It is intended to guide policy decisions, investment, and decision-making for the next 10-15 years. As part of this effort many components of an OSRP were developed, bringing the findings of previous OSRPs up to date and into the 21st century. The findings and recommendations expressed in the Land Use, Natural and Cultural Resources, and Open Space and Recreation sections of the

Master Plan have been of value in establishing a foundation upon which to build and expand in this 2025 OSRP. This plan also reflects the new data found within BioMap3. In addition to the information provided by the Advisory Committee, this plan reflects the existing conditions, capabilities and needs of key Town boards.

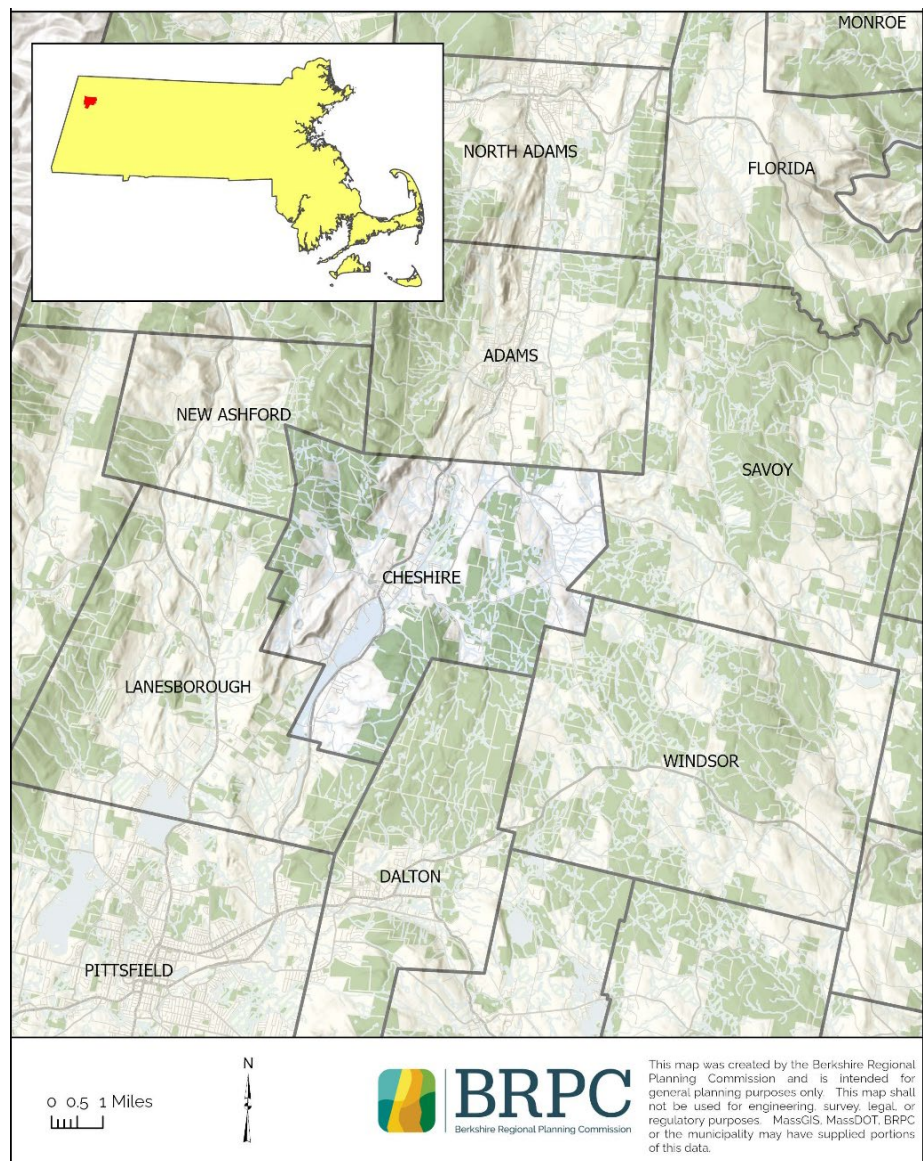
Section 3:

Community Setting

3A. Regional Context

The Town of Cheshire is nestled in the valley of the South Branch of the Hoosic River. Most of the center of Town is built around this river and its tributaries. Mount Greylock rises to the west of town which contains parts of Mount Greylock State Reservation. To the southeast the Appalachian Trail crosses through North Mountain of the Hoosac Range and continues the center of town toward Mount Greylock. Cheshire shares borders with six Berkshire towns, mainly Adams and Savoy to the north and northeast respectively, Dalton and Windsor to the southeast, and Lanesborough to the southwest, with which Cheshire also shares Cheshire Reservoir's middle basin. To the northwest Cheshire borders New Ashford (See Figure 3.).

Figure 3 Regional Context Map



The Town of Cheshire covers an area of 27.7 square miles. According to the 2020 census the town's population is 3,258, giving a density of approximately 118 people per square mile. The 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates put the town's median age at 52.1 which is slightly older than the Berkshire County median age of 48.4. There are 1,556 households, resulting in a household size of approximately two people per household (US Census Bureau, 2020). According to 2016 MassGIS land use data, the predominate land uses in town are forest (76%), agriculture (11%), residential (1%), and open water and wetland (6%). Development is concentrated around the main travel corridor Route 8 and the Hoosic River. Agricultural operations are primarily located outside town to the south and in the northeast area of Cheshire. To the northwest and southeast are popular hiking areas and protected forest land.

Recreation revolves primarily around the Ashuwillticook Trail, Cheshire Reservoir and the Appalachian Trail that runs from the southern border with Dalton through "The Cobbles", along the western edge of town, and north to Mount Greylock. Cheshire Reservoir is accessible by kayak/canoe and state boat launch at a parking along Route 8 and also along Farnams Road which separates the Upper and Middle Reservoirs. The Ashuwillticook Trail is a paved multi-use trail running along Cheshire Reservoir connecting to points south as far as Pittsfield to points north in Adams.

3B. History of the Community

As noted in the 2017 Master Plan, Cheshire was first settled in 1766 and incorporated in 1793. It is named after Cheshire County in England. The valley town was founded by Baptists from Rhode Island, the first settlers in the region who were not from the established Puritan Church. The land that makes up what is now Cheshire was known as Township 6 and was later divided into portions of the towns of Savoy, Adams, Lanesborough, and Cheshire. The township was six square miles and was originally granted by the General Court of the Province of Massachusetts to "the heirs of Captain Samuel Gallop for their services and sufferings in an expedition to Canada" in what was known as King William's War of 1688-97. One early immigrant to the town was Colonel Joab Stafford, who would later lead the townspeople in the revolutionary war and now has a monument in his honor on Stafford's hill in the town.

The town was a supporter of Thomas Jefferson during the 1800 presidential election between Adams and Jefferson. To celebrate Jefferson's victory, the town created a cheese wheel made from curds from every farmer in the town. The resulting cheese was 4 feet in diameter, 18 inches thick, and weighed more than 1,200 pounds. After several sales and resales, early settlers Cook and Bennet bought the with Jefferson's motto: "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God." It was transported on a horse-drawn sled to Washington, D.C. President Jefferson responded to the town with a personal letter of thanks. Today the cheese is commemorated by a memorial located along Church Street.

Industry in the early town included forges, mills, and tanneries. High quality sand beds in the area led to the creation of the Cheshire Crown Glass Company in the early 1800s. The calcareous (calcium containing bedrock) found in the area led to the creation of lime kilns and eventually the US Gypsum Company, which operated in Cheshire on the western shore of the Hoosac Reservoir/Cheshire Lake until 1960. The town's proximity to North Adams and Pittsfield made it a bedroom community for many of the workers at manufacturing facilities that developed during the early and mid 20th century. This trend continues today, with most residents commuting to jobs in the large communities of Adams, North Adams, Pittsfield and Dalton.

According to a statewide database of historic and cultural resources maintained by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), records for the Town of Cheshire show 178 individual

historic inventory items in several categories including areas, buildings, burial grounds, objects, and structures. It is important to note that while many historic buildings and other resources are scattered throughout town, the majority are clustered within the Cheshire Village area, particularly Church, Depot, and South Streets. Several historic resources in the MACRIS database have also been recognized as part of the National Register of Historic Places, which is administered by the National Park Service.

The Farnam's Village Historic District is a nationally recognized historic district centered around the intersection of Farnam's Causeway Road, Old Cheshire Road, and Lanesborough Road. The Historic Inventory form notes that the area is located at the foothills of Mount Greylock on the west side of Cheshire Reservoir. The landscape is known as an upland karst valley and contains a system of caves and limestone deposits. It is an area which contain a limestone quarry, originally connected to a limestone processing mill by a railway and tunnel, limestone crusher, workers' housing, office building, stockroom, carpentry shop, and a small network of mining roads. Buildings and mining structures in the area date largely between 1900 and 1930. The village consists of 20 primary buildings.

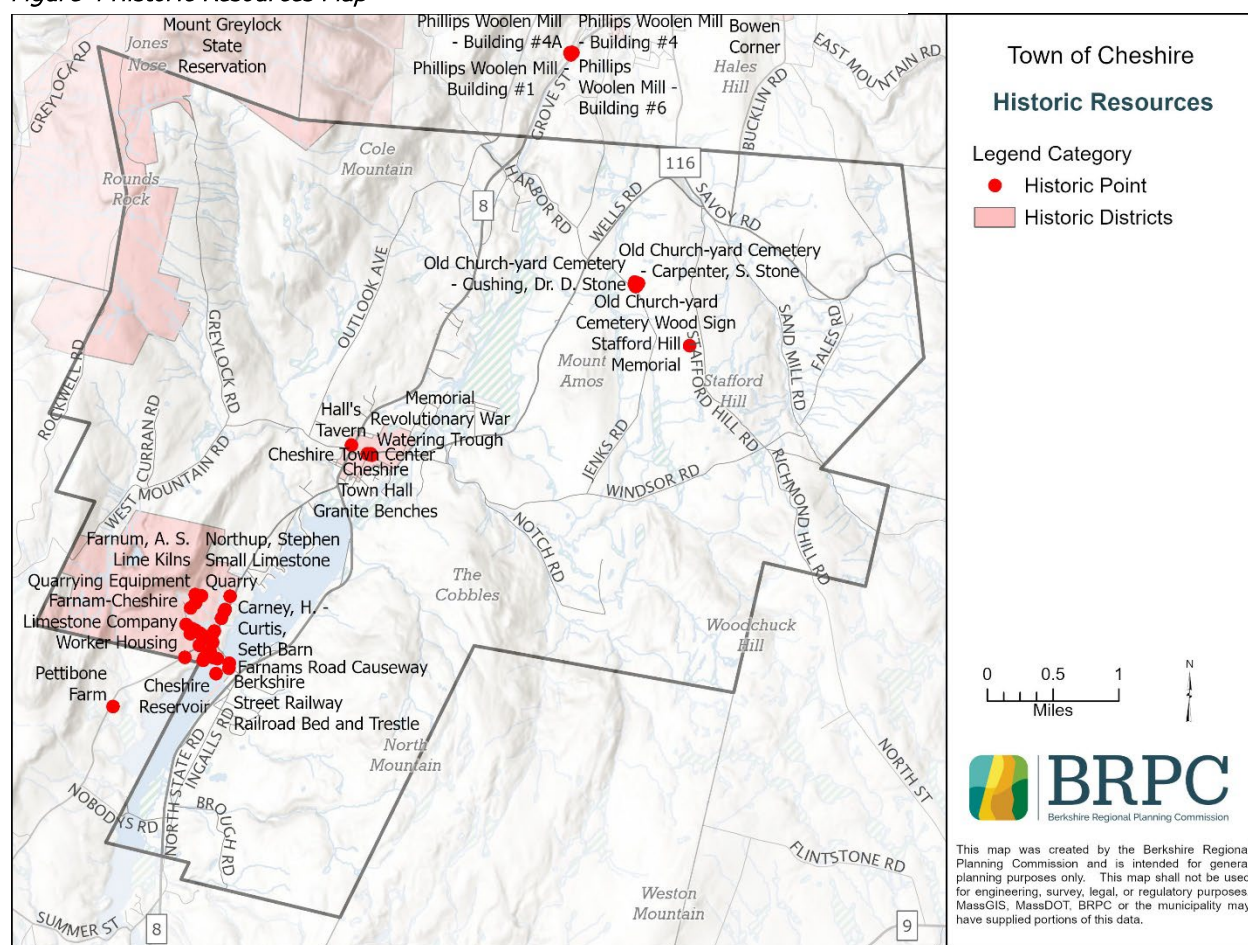
Cheshire Atheneum (former Town Hall Building) is a recent addition to the National Register of Historic Places. The building was constructed in 1898 and was designed by architect Emory Ellsworth. Ellsworth was a graduate of the University of Massachusetts (then Massachusetts Agricultural College) who went on to design several buildings for the University as well other public structures in Western Mass. The structure, a 2 1/2 story cruciform-shaped building, is listed as being in the early Georgian revival style.

There are several town-owned cemeteries scattered across Cheshire, found on Route 8 (near Wells Park), West Mountain Road, Jenks Road, Sand Mill Road, and Ingalls Road. The Old Churchyard Cemetery, also known as the Jenks Rd. or Stafford Hill Cemetery, this area can be found adjacent to 918 Jenks Rd. The cemetery was the burial ground for the original settlers of Cheshire (first known as New Providence) and site of the first Baptist Church in the region. There are around 70 headstones in the cemetery, dating from 1785 to 1848.

Hall's Tavern was constructed in 1804 and is listed as being of the 18th century Federal style construction. The building is located along Route 8 on the left side of the road just north of the intersection of Church St. According to the historical inventory record for the building, British soldiers during the War of 1812 were held as prisoners here, and the building was a secret meeting place for the Masonic Lodge.

The Stafford Hill Memorial is both a memorial to and the final resting place of Joab Stafford. Stafford was one the original settlers of Cheshire and a military hero of the American Revolutionary War and specifically, the Battle of Bennington. The stone tower that marks the site is a replica of an original stone tower from Newport, RI, Stafford's home prior to settling Cheshire. The memorial tower and Stafford's crypt were constructed in 1927.

Figure 4 Historic Resources Map



3C. Population Characteristics

Cheshire is a town with a population of 3,258 (2020 Decennial Census data.) According to the 2022 ACS 5-year estimates, there are 1,698 housing units in Cheshire. An estimated 91% are considered occupied year-round while some 9% of housing units are considered vacant which includes for sale, second homes, and vacant properties. The 2022 ACS data estimated that average size of households are 2.09 people per household. Using 2020 Decennial Census Data, the town has a population density of 118.5 inhabitants per square mile.

Table 2 Cheshire Population Trends.

Municipality	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Cheshire	2,472	3,006	3,124	3,479	3,401	3,235	3,258
Adams	12,391	11,772	10,381	9,445	8,809	8,485	8,166
Lanesborough	2,933	2,972	3,131	3,032	2,990	3,091	3,038
Windsor	384	468	598	770	875	899	834
Pittsfield	57,879	57,020	51,974	48,622	45,793	44,737	43,927
Berkshire County	142,135	149,402	145,110	139,352	134,953	131,219	126,348

Source: United States Decennial Census;

Age

Like much of Berkshire County, Cheshire faces an increasingly older population. With a median age of 52.1, the Town of Cheshire has only 17.5% of its population at or below the age of 19. Most Cheshire residents (56.1%) are over the age of 50 years.

The decline in younger residents could influence school enrollment and funding, as well as future volunteers and town employees such as police and firefighters.

Table 3 Cheshire's Age Breakdown 2020

Age Group Percentages	2000	2010	2022
Age 18 and under	23%	15.5%	14.6%
Age 18 years and over	77%	81.4%	85.4%
Age 65 years and over	14.1%	10.3%	26.1%
Age 75+	2.5%	3.8%	8.8%

Source: United States Decennial Census; 2022 American Community Survey.

Economic and Employment Status

Information provided by the 2022 American Community Survey 5 year estimates, indicates that there are currently 1,646 individuals in the town's labor force and 1,532 individuals employed in the town. Table 4 shows the breakdown of employees in different sectors of employment.

Table 4 Cheshire Employment Sectors 2022

Industry Employment by Sector in Cheshire		
Agriculture	8	.5%
Construction	127	8.3%
Manufacturing	114	7.4%
Wholesale Trade	19	1.2%
Retail Trade	147	9.6%
Transportation	121	7.9%
Information	0	0
Finance	57	3.7%
Professional	87	5.7%
Educational Services	602	39.3%
Arts/Entertainment	106	6.9%
Other Services	67	4.4%
Public Administration	77	5.0%

The largest employment sector in the town is in Educational services with close to 40% of the population employed in this sector. Other important employment clusters include construction, manufacturing, retail trade, transportation, and arts and entertainment.

Median Income

Median income in the town (\$72,028) is similar to the median income average for the county (\$72,565.) The town has a median income higher than nearby Pittsfield and Adams, but less than Lanesborough or Windsor. This information is presented in Table 5.

Table 5 Cheshire Median Income 2023

Municipality	Median Income, ACS Table B25119
Cheshire	\$72,028
Adams	\$56,285
Lanesborough	\$84,419
Windsor	\$104,766
Pittsfield	\$63,386
Berkshire County	\$72,565

Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity

According to the 2020 US Decennial Census, Cheshire is predominantly white, like much of Berkshire County. Of the total population in Cheshire of 3,258, 3,095 residents identify as white alone. See Table 6, for a breakdown of the race and ethnicity.

Table 6 Race and Ethnicity of Cheshire 2020

Race and Ethnicity	Number	Percent
White alone	3,095	92%
Two or more races	163	5%
Hispanic or Latino	79	2%
Asian alone	31	1%
Black or African American alone	25	1%
Some other race alone	21	1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	5	0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2	0%
Total	3,258	

Source: 2020 United States Decennial Census;

Environmental Justice Population

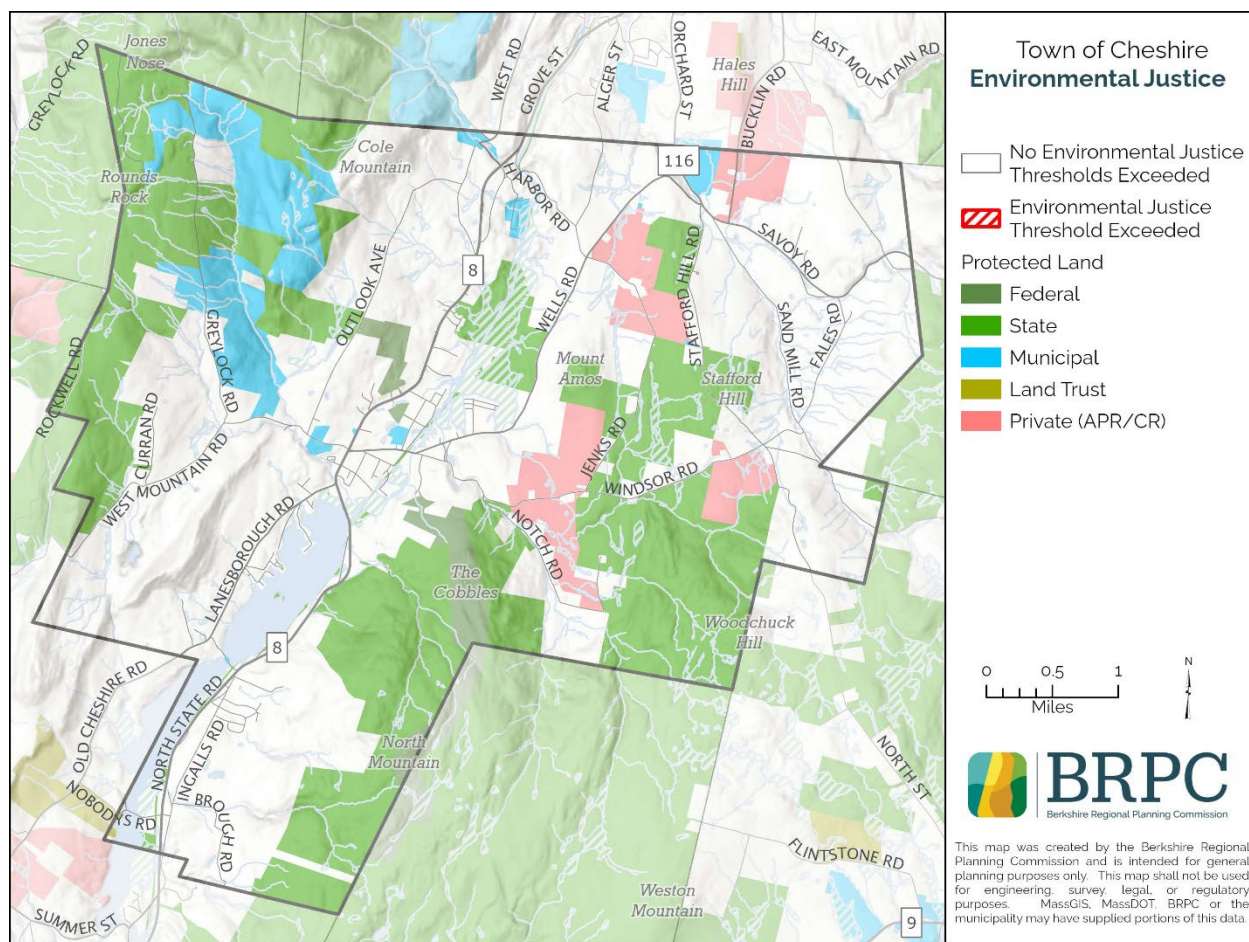
Conceptually, environmental justice (EJ) recognizes that some of the most highly polluted and undesirable areas to live have tended to contain populations of low-income, minority, foreign-born, and non-English speaking residents. Additionally, these populations have tended to have reduced or limited access to open space. In Massachusetts, these populations have been mapped in each municipality based on Census information.

In the state, a neighborhood is defined as an environmental justice population if any of the following are true:

- the annual median household income is not more than 65% of the statewide annual median household income;
- minorities comprise 40% or more of the population;
- 25% or more of households lack English language proficiency; or
- minorities comprise 25% or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150% of the statewide annual median household income.

According to EEA mapping and using 2020 U.S. Census data (as of autumn 2024), there are no environmental justice populations located within the Town of Cheshire using the state's criteria. There are no public housing projects or developments in the Town, and therefore any residents meeting any of the EJ criteria will be scattered throughout the Town. Residents of Cheshire's mobile home parks and seniors on fixed incomes are likely the largest segment of an EJ population. Nearby communities do have documented EJ populations, Adams has several census blocks that are identified as EJ (including those along Cheshire's Northern border) and the entire town of Savoy is identified as an EJ population (See Figure 5.)

Figure 5 Environmental Justice Population in Cheshire



3D. Growth and Development Patterns

Development Trends (see Development Trends Map, Figure 6)

Available town data showing the construction date of buildings within the Town of Cheshire allow for a picture of development trends to emerge. This data shows the last available construction date for a given building, so do not capture earlier structures that may have existed on a given parcel and been replaced or lost. As noted in the 2017 Master Plan, most of the earliest buildings constructed in Cheshire are clustered in Cheshire Village, but many of the Town's oldest structures are also found throughout other areas of the Town. Assessor's data show that 492 existing structures were built prior to 1900, with most of these clustered in Cheshire Village and in the West Mountain/Outlook Avenue area. Other buildings of this era are scattered across the northern portion of Town, especially Cheshire Harbor. Between 1901 and 1950, 367 buildings were constructed. Many of these are found in Cheshire Village; however, they also include development along many of the town's existing roadways. During this period, development along the western shore of Cheshire Reservoir began.

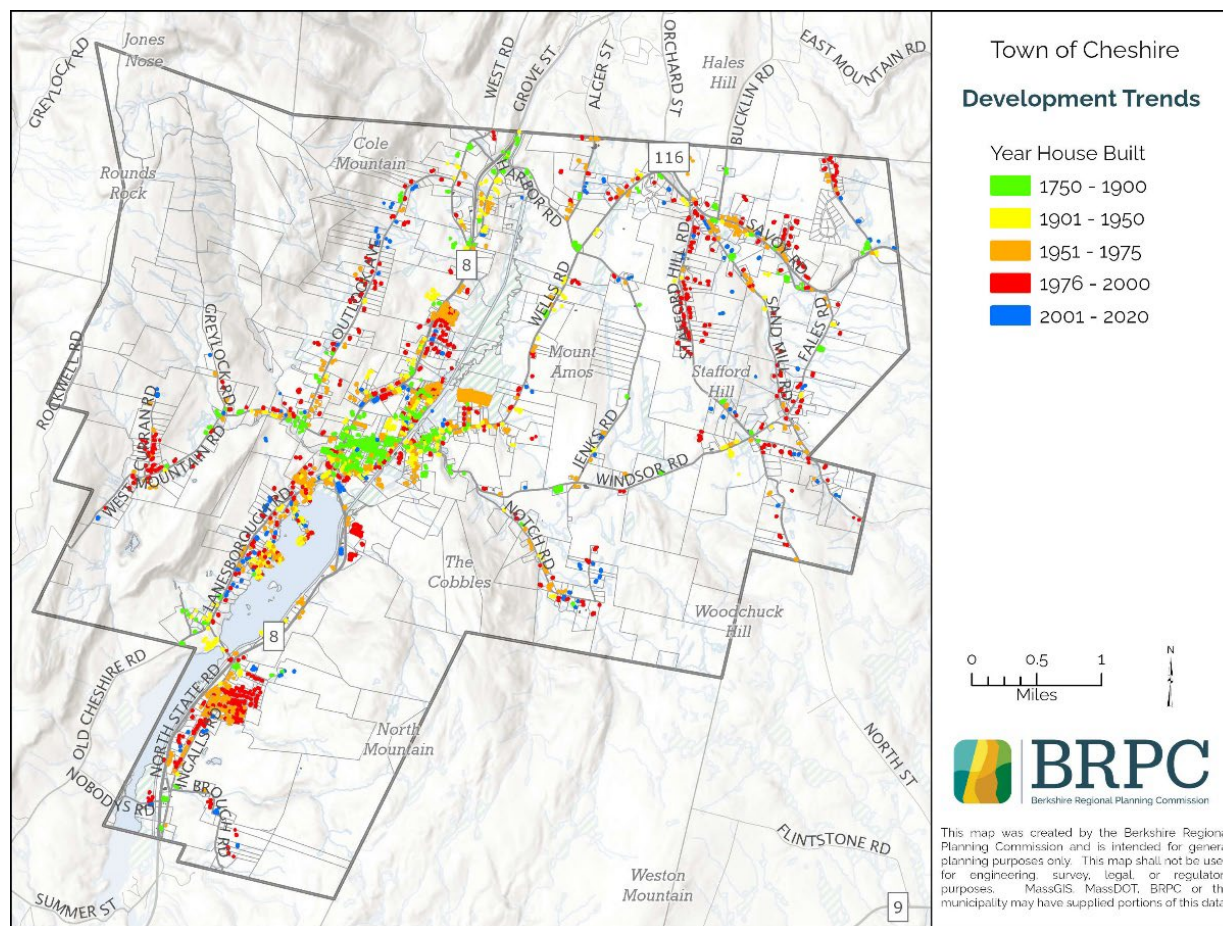
The bulk of Cheshire's existing structures were constructed during the mid- to late 20th century, with 748 built between 1951-1975. Development during this period includes structures scattered along existing roadways, with a cluster along Savoy Road. There are also significant subdivision clusters in the Pine Valley Mobile Home Park on Wells Road, the Crest Drive/Arnold Court subdivision, the Daniels Road/Willow Lane area on Cheshire Reservoir and along Ingalls Road subdivisions. Another burst of construction occurred between, 1976-2000, with 701 structures scattered along Town roads, particularly along Stafford Hill Road, West Mountain Roads, and expanding in subdivisions off of Route 8 and Ingalls Road. Added together, almost 60% of the Town's existing structures were constructed during the latter half of the 20th century. During this time residential development began to replace road frontage that was largely farmland. Table 8 outlines the construction dates of existing structures and Fig. 7 shows the distribution of these across Cheshire.

Table 9 Construction in Cheshire

Building Period	Number of Buildings	Percent of Total
1750-1900	492	20%
1901 - 1950	367	15%
1951 - 1975	748	30%
1976 - 2000	701	28%
Post 2000	195	8%
Total	2,503	

Source: Assessor data 2021

Figure 6 Development Trends Map



Future Development

The vast majority of Cheshire is zoned Agricultural-Residential, and this is where the greatest potential for future development exists. The more recent trend of residential development replacing farmland will likely continue, with loss of forest land also expected to continue. The current tremendous demand and high cost for residential land and housing in southern Berkshire County will likely be a contributing factor in new development pressure increasing in Towns in Central and Northern Berkshire County as local families and generations are unable to afford living or building in those communities south of Cheshire. There are only a few isolated undeveloped parcels in the other zones.

Within the business district located near the center of Cheshire, there is almost no remaining buildable land that is not already developed. There are three parcels that are large enough for subdivision between Route 8 and the lake/ Ashuwillticook Trail and one lot that is not large enough for subdivision, but is vacant and mostly unconstrained. In addition to these areas, there is a lot that could be subdivided and developed near the gas station along Route 8. There is currently a house on the lot, but it is large enough to be subdivided and commercially developed, should the owner choose to do so.

There are a few other business districts scattered around town. The southernmost district area contains Green Acres Plaza. This lot is large enough to be subdivided but would

require redevelopment of the existing plaza to relocate the existing building. Another business district area is located off of Hutchinson Lane. There are two lots near the corner of Hutchinson and Wilshire that have some current development but could be further subdivided. While this brief assessment considers only remaining undeveloped or underutilized lands, larger redevelopment projects of existing business and commercial uses are a possibility but would require significantly more investment on the part of a potential developer.

There is the potential for scattered residential development along rural roads across large swaths of Cheshire. The A-R zone provides the best opportunity for individual home construction and residential subdivisions. Also, there are about a dozen parcels that are not developed on the west side of the Cheshire Reservoir. In general, the developable areas are:

- East of Hutchinson development and Ingalls Rd.
- Between Lanesboro Rd. and West Mountain Rd.
- The Cheshire Harbor area in the northern part of town, which includes Fred Mason Rd. and parts of Outlook Ave.
- Wells Road area, from the town line to just south of East Harbor/Jenks Rd.
- Stewart White Rd.
- Sand Mill Road/Windsor Rd. /Stafford Hill Rd. area.

Infrastructure

Transportation System

There are approximately 63 miles of roadway in Cheshire. Road maintenance is performed by several entities within the Town of Cheshire, including state, municipal, and private organizations who have jurisdiction over different roads within the community. In 2018, the town developed a Road Management Report to prioritize transportation projects in the town. The Town of Cheshire has the largest share of responsibility, maintaining 44 miles of road (76%). This responsibility includes maintaining Route 116, which serves as a critical east-west link in north-central Berkshire County. Route 116 is also home to Hoosac Valley High School, the regional school serving Cheshire, Adams, and Savoy. State entities, including the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Mass. Dept. of Transportation (MassDOT), are responsible for maintaining 6.98 miles or 12% of road miles in the town, including Route 8, one of two major regional north-south routes connecting northern and southern Berkshire County, and several roads on the Mt. Greylock Reservation (see Table 6). Private entities, such as individual homeowners or a homeowners' association, are responsible for 5.11 total miles of roadway, or about 8.8% of all road miles in Cheshire. Roads around the Pine Valley Mobile Home Park are an example of privately maintained roads.

Table 7 Road Maintenance by Entity

Maintenance Responsibility	Road Miles	% of Total
DCR	2.19	4%
MassDOT	6.98	12%
Town of Cheshire	44.03	76%
Private	5.11	9%
Total	58.31	100.0%

Source: Division of Local Services Website, Data collected 10/18/2024.

Public transportation is limited in Cheshire, with buses passing through the town on Mondays through Saturdays; no services is provided on Sundays and holidays. A fixed route bus service travels through Cheshire along Route 8 between Pittsfield (and to points south) and North Adams. In Cheshire the bus has a regular stop in Cheshire Center on Railroad Street, but riders may flag down the bus anywhere along its route, and drivers will try to stop in safe locations to pick up and discharge passengers. There is no rail service in Cheshire; the only passenger rail service located in Pittsfield on the limited Amtrack schedule.

Safe pedestrian and bicyclist movement is limited due to a limited area with sidewalks and a lack of on-road bicycle accommodations. A small sidewalk network serves much of the Cheshire Village area as well as a small portion along Route 8. However, the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail is a north-south route that can be used to walk and bike to Lanesborough in the south and Adams to the north. This rail trail travels through the Town Center, the older and more densely developed area of Cheshire, providing a safe and accessible walking and biking route in close proximity to a significant portion of the population. The limitation to this route is that it is safely available only during daylight hours, as there are no lights along the pathway. This limits its ability to serve as a reliable commuter route to jobs in neighboring Lanesborough or Adams.

Like many communities in Berkshire County, the large public open space lands are located on the periphery of Cheshire, making them out of reach for easy access to the majority of residents who live in the center of town. The Appalachian trail passes through the center of town and residents can access several popular properties such as Mount Greylock Reservation and the Cheshire Cobbles. These trails are rugged with steep and rocky sections which are difficult to access with those with limited mobility. Sidewalks, the Ashuwillticook Trail, and bus routes come close to these trails in the center of town near the Community House.

Water Supply Systems

The aquifers and reservoirs within Cheshire provide public drinking water supplies for residents of Cheshire and Adams. Drinking water in Cheshire is provided by both publicly and privately maintained sources. There are 565 connections serviced by the Town of Cheshire public water system, which is maintained by the Cheshire Water Department. The Town's two wells are located on the edge of a buried valley aquifer and utilize water from an unconfined, sand and gravel aquifer within the Hoosic River valley north of the town center. The Zone I radius for both wells is 400-feet, and is predominantly owned by the Cheshire Water Department, although there is a small area coincident with the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail that is owned and maintained by the

DCR. The Zone II recharge area for Cheshire's wells is a mixture of residential, forested and agricultural crop land uses and includes much of Cheshire Village. This system serves buildings and residents in the Cheshire Village area. The two wells produce an output capacity of 410,000 gallons per day. Water pressure is maintained in the system through a 450,000 gallon storage tank on West Mountain Road. The Kitchen Brook Reservoir serves as an emergency backup water source.

In addition to the drinking water supply system that serves Cheshire Village, there are two other drinking water supply systems in town, both of which are privately owned and managed. A smaller public water system serves residents of the Pine Valley Mobile Home Park. Another system is owned by the Hutchinson Water Company and provides drinking water to approximately 120 homes (roughly 400 residents) along Hutchinson Lane and Wilshire, Devonshire, and Yorkshire Drives.

The public water supply wells owned by the Town of Adams are located in the northern part of Cheshire. The Town of Adams' wells are located, approximately 6,400 feet north and downgradient of Cheshire's wells. In addition to these, Adams also owns a backup emergency water supply reservoir, the Bassett Brook Reservoir, also located in Cheshire.

Wastewater Systems

All buildings and residences in Cheshire are served by onsite septic systems. Failing septic systems contribute to nutrient loading and increased vegetative growth in the lake. Identifying these sources of contamination is difficult without getting permission for onsite testing from property owners.

Telecommunications

The town is served by several internet providers. Spectrum offers cable service, the fastest internet speeds of up to 1 Gigabyte per second. Other internet service providers include AT&T, Viasat, T-Mobile, Earthlink, and Hughesnet.

Stormwater System

Cheshire is within the Pittsfield Urbanized Area and thus recently included in the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) 2018 General Permit. To meet permit requirements, the Town has done more extensive study and mapping of their stormwater sewer system than most municipalities of similar size. Cheshire's stormwater system is focused around the downtown area and Route 8. The Town maintains nearly 300 catch basins and manholes and the associated pipe system. Stormwater infrastructure around Route 8 is maintained and owned by MassDOT.

The 2023 Town Meeting approved a Stormwater Management Bylaw to the town's general bylaws. The bylaw regulates discharges in the municipal separate storm sewer system and watercourses and waters of the Commonwealth and land disturbance.

Land Use (Refer to Land Use Map, Figure 7)

Land Use

According to 2016 MassGIS data, the vast majority of Cheshire is undeveloped. Seventy-one percent of Cheshire is forested (12,548 acres), with approximately 3/4 of these acres being deciduous forest and 1/4 being evergreen forest. Other natural landscapes include wetlands (645 acres), open water (421 acres) and scrub/shrub cover (230 acres).

Agricultural uses, including cultivated, hay and grassland acreage, cover another 11% (2,494 acres). Historically, agricultural operations are located on gently rolling lands below steeper, mountainous terrain. As can be seen in Figure 6 Land Use Map, the majority of agricultural operations are located in the eastern part of Cheshire, along and east of Wells Road and Windsor Road. Patches of farmland also continue to exist in the low hills west of the Village Center and in the southernmost portion of Town. Cheshire's farmlands are often located adjacent or in close proximity to large expanses of protected open space lands owned by the Commonwealth. Together these open lands provide a mix of forest, wetlands and open fields that provide wildlife with a diverse range of habitats and provide residents with rural, scenic landscapes.

Residential uses are by far the largest component of the developed landscape, covering approximately six percent (1,078 acres), while commercial and industrial uses combined cover two percent (329 acres). For the purposes of this analysis, Town-owned properties have been included in the commercial category.

In an effort to identify recent general land use changes, the 2017 Master Plan analyzed GIS data from 1971, 1985, 1999 and 2005. That plan carefully describes how changes in data-collection methodologies make comparison of the 1971-1999 data sets to the 2005 data statistically impossible. Prior to 2005, land use data was derived manually, from analysis of aerial photography, while after 2005, these processes became automated and more detailed. However, general trends can be discerned from these four data sets, noting that during the 1970s through the 1990s agricultural land uses declined (by approximately 490 acres) while residential land uses increased (by approximately 390 acres).

It should also be noted that current GIS land use technology (2016) uses a different methodology for mapping and calculating land use than previous technologies. The 2016 GIS technology is much more detailed than the old, attempting to clearly delineate the footprints of buildings and mapping the vegetated cover surrounding those buildings. Take for example a 1-acre residential property, which includes a house surrounded by a grassed lawn and separated from its neighbor by a row of mature maple trees. The older technology would simply have mapped the entire 1-acre site as a residential use. In contrast, the newer technology would map the footprint of the house as a building, the lawn as developed open space and the tree line as deciduous forest. This technology more accurately depicts the developed, impervious acreage of the Town and the corresponding lawn coverage. However, it also increases or skews the acreage of forest cover, because mature trees within developed areas throughout the Town center and in residential neighborhoods are being considered deciduous or evergreen forest. But clearly these clumps of trees do not constitute a forest, nor do they provide the same quantity and quality of habitat that unfragmented forests provide. This explanation of current versus previous GIS technologies has been provided to explain why land use acreage from 2016 will not provide a precise land use change analysis of what has occurred since 1999 and 2005. At best the data provides trends in land use changes to provide insight into development pressures in the town.

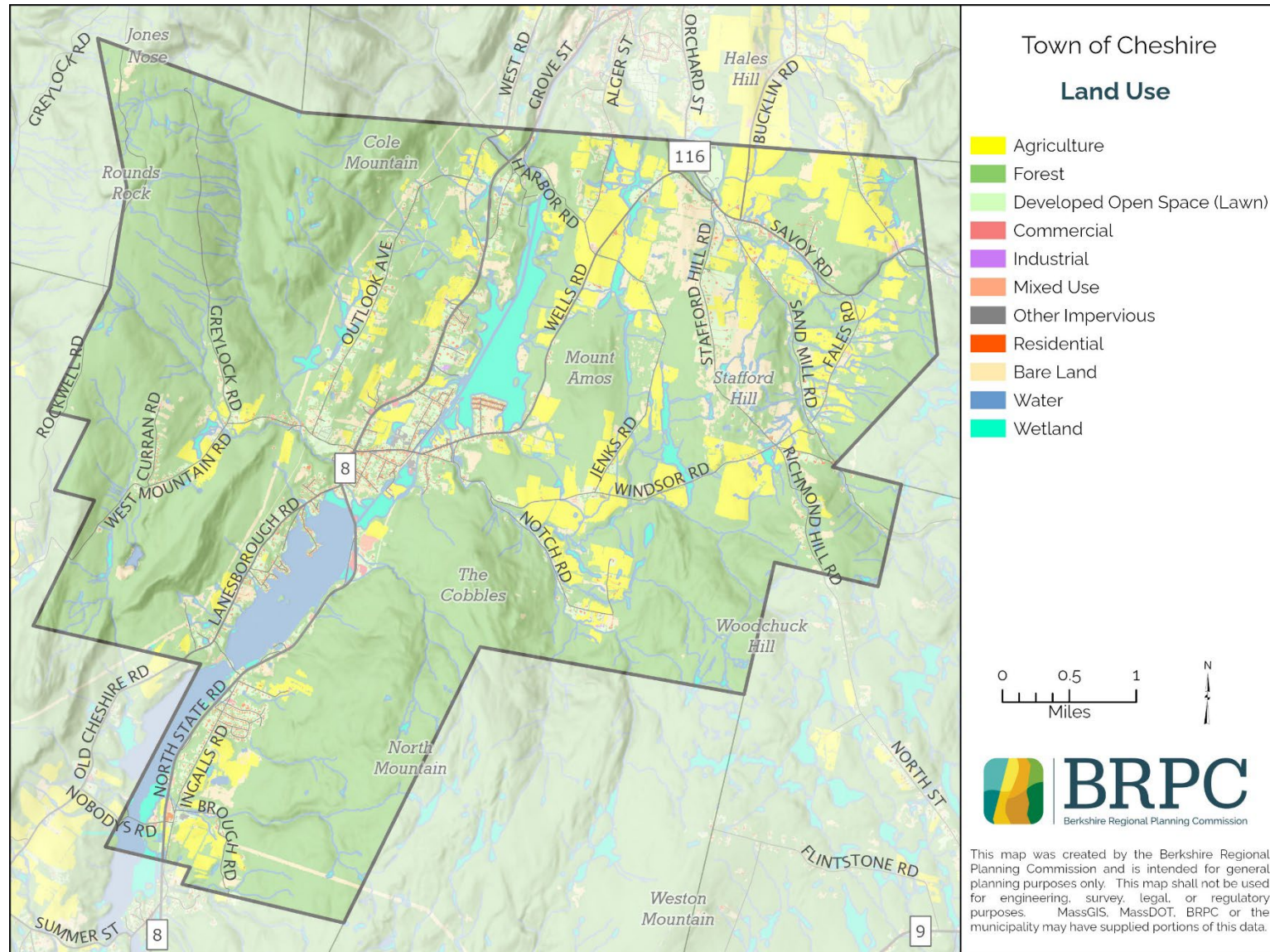
Table 8 Land Use in Cheshire 2016 and 2005

2016 Developed Land Uses	Acres	Percent	2005 Developed Land Uses	Acres	Percent
Commercial & Industrial	329	2%	Commercial & Industrial	214	1%
Residential (includes lawns)	1,078	6%	Residential (includes lawns)	1,248	7%
Agriculture & Grassland	2,494	11%	Agriculture & Grassland	2,216	13%
Total	3,901	19%	Total	3,678	21%

2016 Natural Land Uses	Acres	Percent	2005 Natural Land Uses	Acres	Percent
Deciduous Forest	9,189	52%	Forest (Deciduous v Evergreen not available)	12,428	71%
Evergreen Forest	3,359	19%			
Scrub/Shrub	230	1%	Scrub/Shrub	710	4%
Wetland	645	4%	Wetland	323	2%
Water	421	2%	Water	465	3%
Total	13,844	78%	Total	13,926	79%

Direct Sources: 2016 MassGIS; 2005 Cheshire Master Plan (MassGIS 2005)

Figure 7 Cheshire Land Use 2016



Zoning (See Zoning Map, Figure 8)

The current protective and planning zoning bylaw was adopted by the town on May 10, 1978 and updated later that year, and again in 2015, 2018, and 2019. The town has defined 4 different base districts and 4 overlay districts. The base districts are shown in the Zoning Map, Figure 8. Base districts include; Residential District (R-1), Agricultural-Residential District (A-R), Business District (B), and Light Industrial District (LI). Overlay Districts include; Flood Plain District (FP), Flood Hazard District (FHD), Water Supply Protection District (WSPD), and Marijuana Establishment District (MED.) Table 3.2 of the Town's zoning bylaw defines allowed uses, those authorized by a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals, those authorized by a special permit from the Planning Board and uses that are excluded in the town.

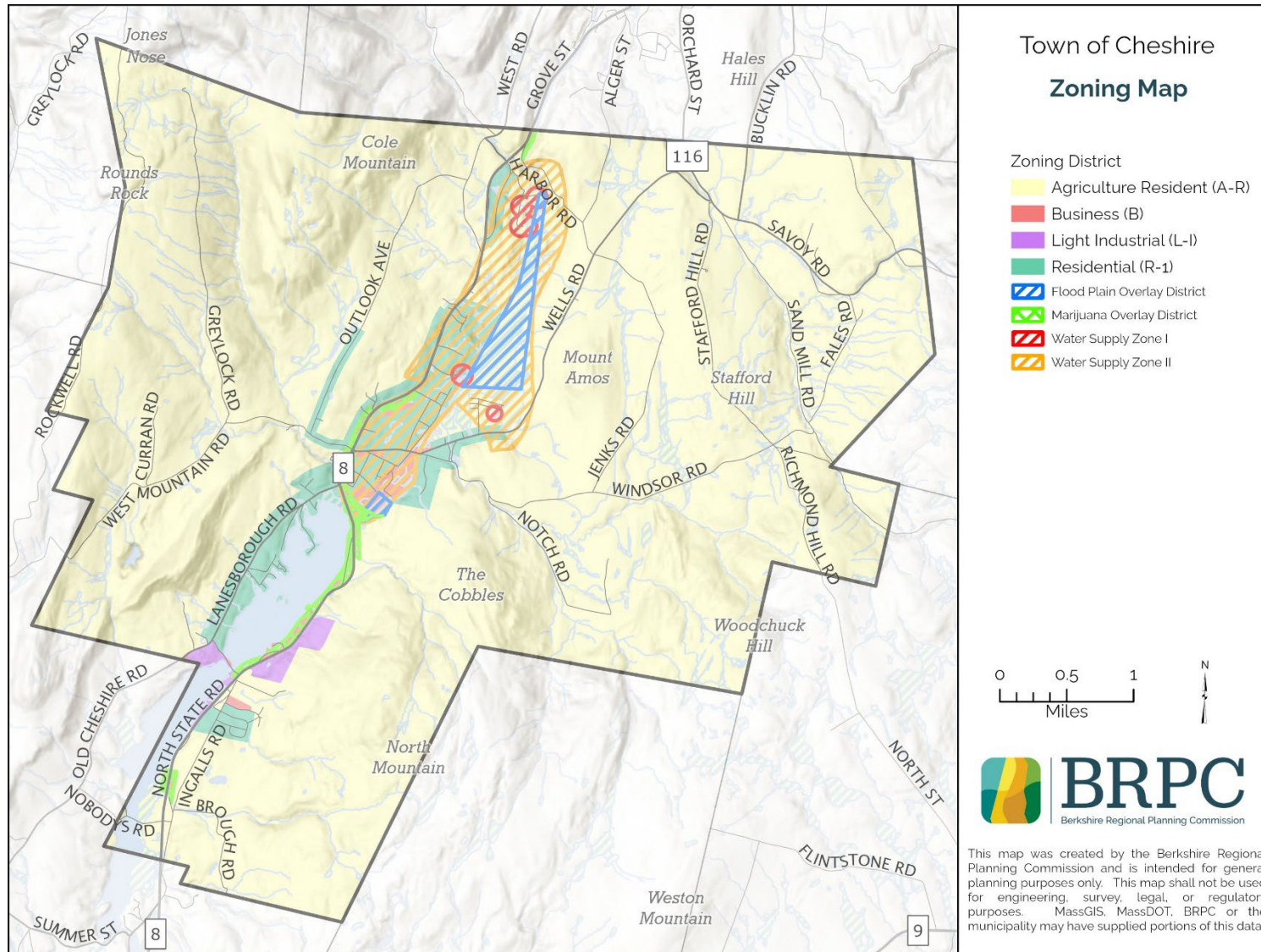
Residential uses of one and two family dwellings are permitted in all zoning districts. Multi-family dwellings are permitted in the Business and Light Industrial districts with a special permit. The table of uses define 38 use categories and 19 accessory uses in the 4 defined districts. Section 9 defines Overlay districts, including Flood Prone Areas and Wetland areas, these regulations are designed to protect water supplies and assure the natural flow patterns of water courses in the town. They are designed to provide adequate and safe floodwater storage capacity to protect against the hazards of flood inundation. The Flood Hazard District is defined by areas designated Zone A, A-1, A-2, and A-4 of the Flood insurance maps (FIRM) maps dated July 19, 1982 and on file with the Town Clerk and Building Inspector. The Water Supply Protection District applies to Zone 1 and 2 (See Figure 8) around town wells and recharge areas. This district limits development in these areas.

Section 4 of the Town's Zoning Bylaw specifies the Table to Dimensional Requirements for all zoning districts. It is reproduced here in Table 9.

Table 10 Cheshire Zoning Requirements

Zoning District	Minimum Lot Dimensions		Minimum Yard Dimensions			Maximum Lot Coverage	Maximum Height of Buildings	
	Area (Square Feet)	Frontage (feet)	Front Setback	Side Setback	Rear Setback	Percentage	Stories	(Feet)
R-1	60,000	200	50	20	30	25	3	40
A-R	60,000	200	50	30	40	20	3	40
B	60,000	200	50	20	30	25	3	40
LI	80,000	200	50	30	40	20	3	40

Figure 8 Zoning Map



Section 4:

Environmental

Inventory and Analysis

4A. Geology, Soils and Topography (Refer to Figure 9 Soils and Geologic Features)

The Town of Cheshire is underlain with schists, quartzites, and gneisses in the upland, while the low-lying valley is underlain with carbonate rock. These layers of metamorphic rock were formed as continental shelf deposits, which have been intensively deformed, folded, and thrust-faulted in two separate mountain building episodes. The more weather resistant rocks are found cropping out at higher elevations. The less resistant limestones have been eroded by glaciers and weathering and are immediately apparent to visitors of Cheshire in the abandoned mines and quarries which operated in the area until the late 1960s.

The following is a brief description of the various rock types:

Gneissic Rocks-Hinsdale Gneiss: These rocks are found along the border with Dalton (southeast) and include quartzite gneiss, granite- biotite epidote schists, and quartz feldspar pegmatite. The outcroppings are underlain with Cheshire quartzite.

Schistose Rocks-Walloomsac Formation: These rocks form the steep western walls of the valley and consist of schistose marble and a quartz mica schist, which is black to dark gray.

Quartzite Rocks-Dalton Formation: Cheshire quartzite underlies most of the eastern section of town and is a pure white quartzite which weathers to yellow. It is generally about 800 feet thick and is highly resistant to weathering. As the softer dolomite bedrock has eroded away, particularly along fault lines below North Mountain, massive steep slopes of this quartzite have been exposed.

Carbonate Rocks: Kitchen Brook dolomite and Clarendon Springs dolomite, deposits of less resistant limestone, and some marble dolomite dominate the valley floor. Soils derived from these rocks are responsible in part for the rich diversity of the floodplain flora along the Hoosic River, east of Town Crest. These rocks are prone to excessive fracturing and solution porosity and consequently are valuable as potential aquifers.

Much of the bedrock in the valley is overlain with glacial deposits of unconsolidated sediments. The higher elevations in Cheshire are covered with varying thicknesses (0-50 feet) of glacial till, a yellow-brown layer of sandy clay, pebbles and boulders. Towards Cheshire Reservoir and along the

Hoosic River, however, the deposits of stratified sands and gravels range from 0-250 feet thick, some of which are overlain with recent deposits of flood plain and swamp sediments. The lake bed itself consists of about 250 feet of fine grained clays, deposited by glacial meltwater during the last ice age. An ancient glacial lake was dammed at the southern end by ice contact deposits of gravels and sand just north of the intersection of Swamp Road and Route 8. These stratified deposits prevented a southerly flow and caused the drainage of the valley to flow north. The ice contact deposits merit attention because the most productive wells are found within the unconsolidated deposits, particularly where these layers of sand and gravel overlie limestone bedrock which recharges the gravel through upward leakage. These areas are almost all within the present residential areas of Cheshire or have great potential for being developed because of the proximity to Cheshire Reservoir and Route 8. Future planning in Cheshire should proceed with utmost caution to avoid threats of contamination to this abundant groundwater supply.

Soil is the layer of mineral and organic material that covers the bedrock on the earth's crust and the surficial deposits. Soil characteristics depend upon the hardness and composition of the parent material as well as the shape of the land, the age of the soil, the content of the decomposing matter, and the climate. Generally, soils of higher elevations are thin and stony while alluvial soils (deposits transported by streams) are often composed of particles which are sorted according to size, and many of these soils are fertile.

Soils are described by several characteristics, each having different implications for agriculture, construction and other uses of the land. Some characteristics are: location, depth to bedrock, structure, depth to water, periodic flooding, permeability, natural fertility, and acidity, among other values. In these ways, soils influence which areas are suitable for specific uses. Thin soils on steep slopes erode easily and are not good for septic systems. Wetland soils are important sponges which absorb water during heavy rains but are most often not suitable for septic system function due to poor drainage characteristics. Flood plain soils are generally very fertile and may be best used for agriculture. It should be noted that the soils map is generalized for planning purposes only. Exact soil conditions are extremely localized and can differ greatly from one building lot to the next.

In general terms, the soil associations in Cheshire are characteristic of most mountain valleys in New England, but soils details for a specific site must be confirmed by sampling and analysis. The following presents a brief description of the major soil groups found in Cheshire.

Lyman-Peru-Marlow-Berkshire Association: These soils are usually located on hilly to steep slopes and are very rocky, strongly acidic, and shallow to bedrock. They may also include extremely stony, deep, well-drained soils with hardpan. Generally these soils are found from Hoosac Valley High School south along the eastern side of the town, including Stafford Hill, the Cobbles and Woodchuck Hill, as well as the western section of town bordering the Mt. Greylock Reservation.

Amenia-Stockbridge-Pittsfield: These soils include stony and non-stony, well-drained soils which are calcareous and may or may not have hardpan. They are generally located in a band below Cole Mt. and extending south through the Kitchen Brook and Pettibone Brook regions.

Copake-Winooski-Hero: These soils are basically level, moderately well- drained, calcareous, loamy, and gravelly soils on terraces and silty soils on floodplains. They can be found along the Hoosic River and around the Hoosac Reservoir/Cheshire Lake on both east and west banks.

Pittsfield-Amenia-Kendaia: These soils include those which are stony and non- stony, both well and poorly drained, calcareous, loamy soils without hardpans. The eastern floodplain of the Hoosic and ground rising on the Stafford Wildlife Management Area of Mt. Amos contains such soils.

Westminster-Marlow-Peru-Dark Subsoil: These soils are mostly hilly, rocky, shallow to bedrock which range from non-stony to extremely stony well- drained loamy soils with hardpans. Generally they can be found along the Savoy and Windsor town lines, from the headwaters of Dry Brook to those of McDonald Brook and South Brook.

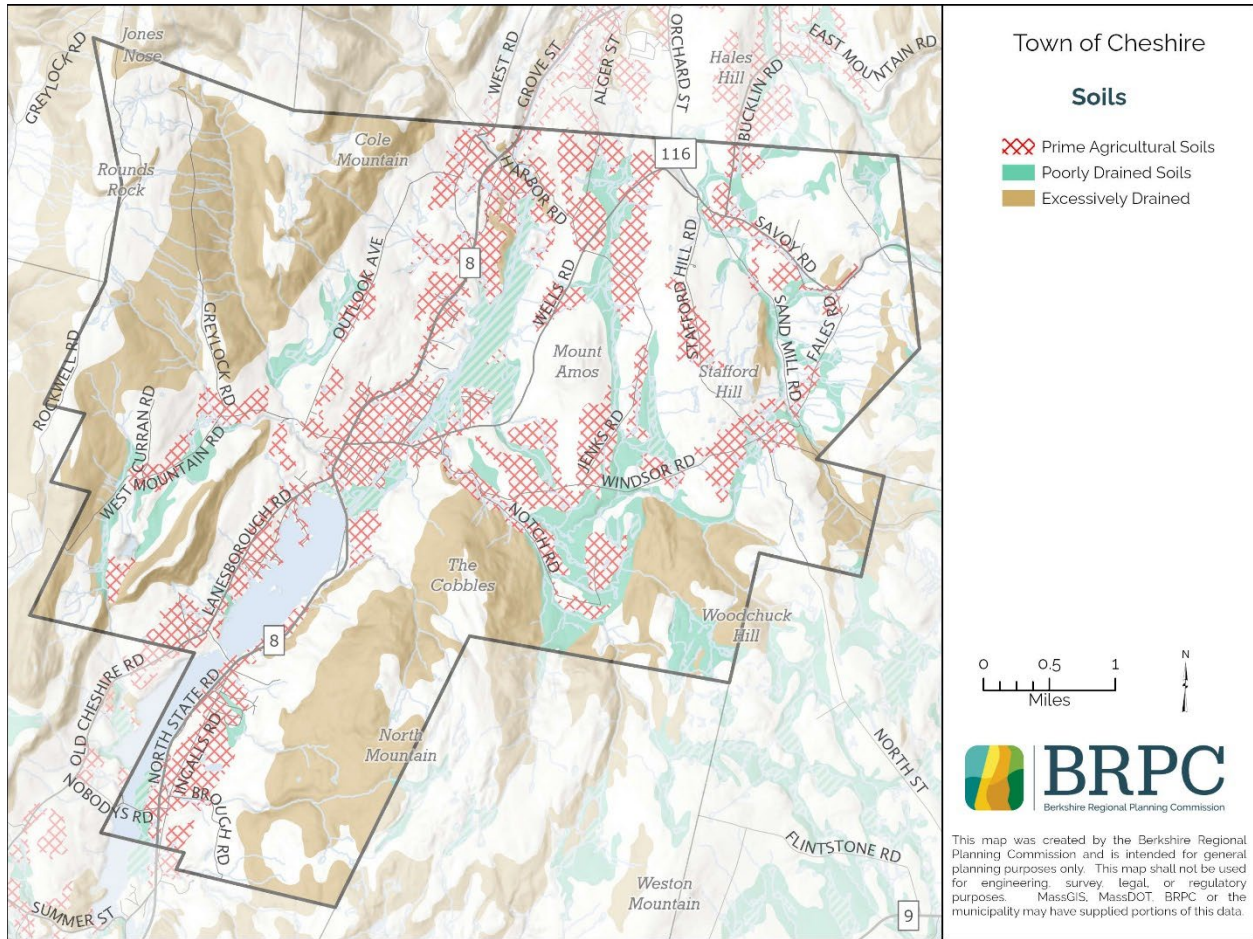
Much of Cheshire is characterized by soils and slopes which can limit activities which require on-lot septic systems. There are, however, many specific locations within general areas of severe septic limitations where percolation may be acceptable. As is often the case, however, the areas of best drainage, (where one could most easily develop lots for housing from a waste disposal point of view), are also those areas most important to protect and shield from development and pollution. These are the aquifers around Cheshire Reservoir, where glacial gravel and sand allow not only rapid downward movement of septage, but also rapid upward movement of excellent water supplies.

In addition, many of the most easily developed areas of town are classified as prime farmland. So defined because of their characteristic soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops economically; these soils include Amenias silt loam, Copake fine sandy loam, some Hero loam, and some Pittsfield loam. Their importance as a local and national resource cannot be overstressed as these exceptional lands can be farmed continuously without degrading the environment. They can produce the most food with the least energy expended and will respond very well to fertilizer and chemical applications with the least amount of leaching.

These prime farmlands occur in areas along the west and, to some degree, east shores of Cheshire Reservoir (especially Lanesborough Road), as well as along Engles, Windsor, Notch, Jenks, Harbor, and West Mountain Roads. Most of the prime farmland, however, extends from Hoosac Reservoir/Cheshire Lake north along Route 8 and encompasses the Village of Cheshire and Town Crest Village. In total there are around 3,200 acres of mapped prime agricultural soils in Cheshire, or around 18% of all land in town (see Soils Map for locations).

Creating or expanding recreational trails on steep slopes needs to be done carefully to avoid soil erosion and down-slope sediment deposition into water resources. Clearing of tree canopy and natural ground vegetation should be limited, especially on steeply sloped areas to avoid creating hazardous conditions and habitat destruction.

Figure 9 Soils Map



4B. Landscape Character (Refer to Land Use Map, Figure 6)

The topography of Cheshire is defined by two mountain ranges separated by the south to north flow of the Hoosic River. The rugged western borders touch the Mt. Greylock Reservation, with elevations of over 2,580 feet above sea level at Rounds Rock, and traverse the steep ravines made by Kitchen Brook and Bassett Brook. To the east, amid open country and rolling hills (Woodchuck Hill, elevation 2,168 feet, and Stafford Hill, elevation 1,580 feet), spectacular views of Mt. Greylock and much of Cheshire Reservoir may be had. The open fields along the rural roads that wind their way through the northeast portion of Cheshire are testimonies to the Town's agricultural heritage.

The Hoosic River flows north about 3.5 miles to the town line of Adams, with an overall drop of 34 feet. Along its fairly even descent, the river has formed floodplains and marshes, rich in diverse plant life and habitats rarely encountered in northern Berkshire County.

4C. Water Resources (Refer to Water Resources Figure 10)

Water resources in Cheshire play a key role in providing a diversity of habitats for wildlife and offering outdoor recreation. Cheshire Reservoir is the most recognizable waterbody in Town, providing ample outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors alike. The Reservoir is a dammed section of the headwaters of the Hoosic River, which flows northward through the center of Town before continuing into Adams, flowing north/northwest where it eventually joins the Hudson River in New York State. Thus, water originating in Cheshire may eventually flow into the Atlantic Ocean by way of New York Bay. In total the Hoosic River flows for 76 miles before joining the Hudson River. The Town's groundwater resources provide drinking water to all residents as well as residents of Adams.

Watersheds and Surface Waters

All lands except for a few small areas along the jagged western border between Rockwell Road in Lanesborough and West Mountain Road in Cheshire, are in the Hoosic River Watershed. The few areas not in the Hoosic drain southwest into the Housatonic River Watershed.

Within the Hoosic River Watershed in Cheshire there are two main subwatersheds: that of Cheshire Reservoir and the Hoosic River (refer to the Water Features map). The headwaters of the Hoosic River originate in Lanesborough and flow through Berkshire Pond and into Cheshire Reservoir watershed. Cheshire Reservoir is a manmade lake created for industrial purposes in the late 1800s. The lake is nearly 600 acres in size and is divided into three basins by two causeways. The south basin, also known as Berkshire Pond, is fairly shallow, with depth of only a few feet in places. The middle basin has a maximum depth of around six feet and the north basin is nine feet at its deepest. The north basin is located entirely within Cheshire and is the waterbody that is commonly known as Cheshire Reservoir. Lands in southern Cheshire drain into Cheshire Reservoir, including the named streams flowing into the reservoir include Gore, Pettibone, and Collins Brooks. Gore Pond is located in this subwatershed.

Water flows out the reservoir into the subwatershed of the Hoosic River, which is the larger watershed in Cheshire. Kitchen and Bassett Brooks and their tributaries flow downgradient from the western hills while South and Dry Brooks and their tributaries flow downgradient from the eastern hills. The Cheshire Water Departments maintain two small emergency reservoirs in this

subwatershed, Thunderbrook and Kitchen Brook Reservoirs. Basset Reservoir, a back-up water supply for the Town of Adams, is also located in this subwatershed.

Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW)

The subwatersheds of Thunder Brook and Kitchen Brook have been designated as ORW because these lands contribute to the Kitchen Brook Reservoir, an emergency backup water supply owned by the Cheshire Water Department. The subwatershed of Bassett Reservoir has been designed as an ORW as it is the backup water supply for the Town of Adams. Most of these watershed lands are protected open space as being either owned by their respective municipalities or by the state as part of the Mt. Greylock State Reservation.

Flood Hazard Areas

As noted in the Cheshire Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan, there are relatively few floodplain acres in Cheshire, largely due to the hilly terrain and narrow stream corridors. There are approximately 1,004 acres of land delineated by the FIRM map as floodplain, which comprises less than one percent of the Town. Approximately seven acres have been developed, which represents less than one percent of total floodplain acres in the Town. It should be noted that the FIRM map for Cheshire was issued in 1982, over 40 years ago. As precipitation patterns and flow regimes change in a warming climate, the boundaries of the 100-year floodplain could shift.

In Cheshire, the largest floodplain area is located along the low-lying terrain of Cheshire Reservoir and the Hoosic River corridor and its associated wetland complexes. The floodplain crosses Main Street and extends northward between Railroad Street and Berkshire Village mobile home park. Other floodplain areas are found along Gore, Thunder and Dry Brooks. Floodplain areas are shown in blue hatching on the Water Features Map, Figure 10.

Wetlands

Wetlands are critically important resources that benefit Cheshire's residents and wildlife. Wetlands provide very valuable functions, including flood water storage, pollutant filtration, erosion control, beautiful open spaces and scenic views. Water speed and flow is greatly reduced in a wetland compared to the open water of a stream or river. This causes suspended sediments to fall out of the water column, thus enhancing downstream water quality.

Wetlands are some of the most productive ecosystems on the planet, measured by the amount of biomass or living biological tissue they help to produce. They serve as habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species and often function as critical nursery and breeding areas. Wetlands often harbor rare plants and animals, providing habitat that may help sustain the region's biodiversity, an effort that will become more challenging in the face of climate change. The larger wetland complexes in Cheshire are associated with the Hoosic River and its floodplain, beginning in the Town Center and extending northward to Cheshire Harbor.

Approximately 1,165 acres within Cheshire have been mapped by the Massachusetts DEP as being open wetland resource ecosystems, including open waters, which can support aquatic and semi-aquatic plants, forested wetlands, and a variety of marsh/swamp wetlands. Almost half of these mapped wetland acres are categorized as open water (44%), with most of this acreage

being Cheshire Reservoir. Forested wetlands constitute approximately 24% of total wetland acres and shrub swamp wetlands 21%. These types of wetlands often accompany river corridors. Much of the non-forested wetlands in Cheshire are located in a large complex surrounding the Hoosic River between Route 8 and Wells Road. Other wetlands are scattered throughout the floor of the valley, along the edge of the Cheshire Reservoir, and near Stafford Hill.

The total wetland acreage discussed here should be considered as a very rough, very underestimated guide. Because GIS mapping only recognizes large wetland areas, the actual acreage of wetlands in Cheshire is undoubtedly higher. Narrow rivers and streams, critical wetland resources and habitats, are linear attributes in GIS mapping, and thus their cumulative acreage is also not calculated here. All wetlands, particularly smaller wetland areas, would need to be field verified to achieve a true accounting of wetland resource acreage. It should also be noted that the mapped MassDEP Wetlands acreage is different from the mapped Land Use acreage shown in Table 7 of this plan. That is because the MassDEP mapping is more focused on wetland ecosystems, while the LU acreage is more focused on land cover. For example, forested wetland types are mapped by DEP as wetlands while they are mapped by the Land Use data layer as forest types (deciduous or evergreen).

The Wetlands Protection Act, as amended by the 1996 Rivers Protection Act, gives some protection to the wetlands and rivers of the state. The goals of the act are to preserve water quality, maintain drinking water quality and quantity, provide recharge through infiltration, retain natural flood storage, sustain fisheries, and protect wildlife habitat. To attain these goals, development within 100 feet of wetlands and 200 feet of perennial rivers and streams is regulated by the Cheshire Conservation Commission.

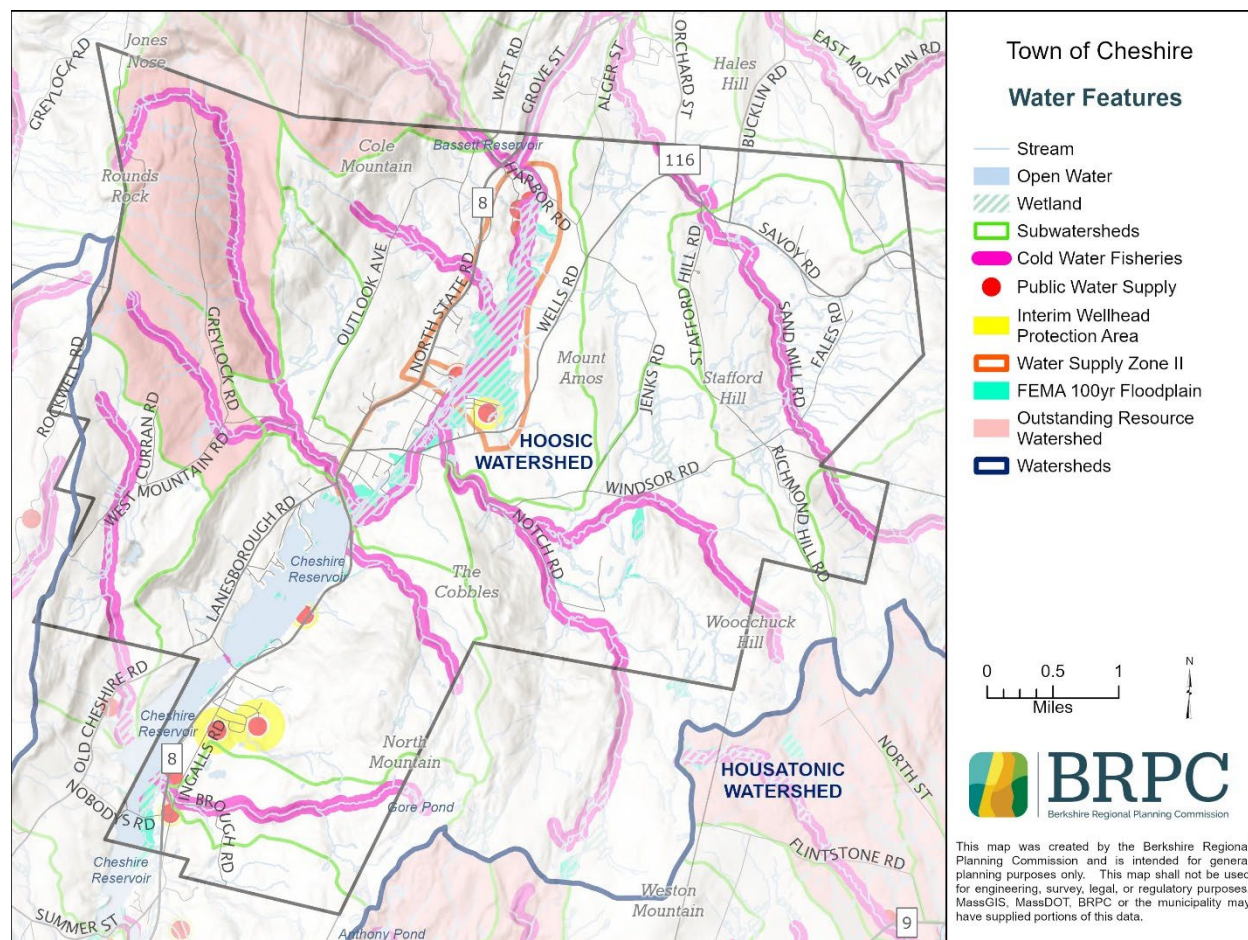
Groundwater Resources

Groundwater resources in Cheshire are critically important to not only to residents and businesses in Cheshire, but also to those in neighboring Adams. All Cheshire residents receive their drinking water supplies from private wells or from public or private water companies. The public drinking water wells maintained by the Towns of Cheshire and Adams are located in the northeast corner of Cheshire. The wells for these water systems are located on the edge of a buried valley aquifer and utilize water from an unconfined, sand and gravel aquifer within the Hoosic River valley. The bedrock valley was deepened by advancing glaciers some 18,000 years before present and later filled with sand and gravel (glacial drift) as the glaciers melted. Although there is some evidence of fine grained material in the aquifer, there is no confining (protective) clay layer at the site to prevent potential contaminants from entering the aquifer from the ground surface. Wells located in these geological conditions are considered to have a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent potential contaminant migration from the surface. The Town of Adams' wells are located approximately 6,400 feet north (downgradient) of the Cheshire Water Department's wells.¹

During the public comment period, a resident expressed concern about the private acquisition of lands that contribute to public water supplies and the commercialization of water protection areas by for-profit entities. They would like to see the town take a more proactive approach to acquiring and protecting these lands to ensure adequate water supplies into the future.

¹ DEP, SWAP 2002.

Figure 10 Important Water Features Map



4D. Vegetation (Refer to Land Use and Vegetation Maps)

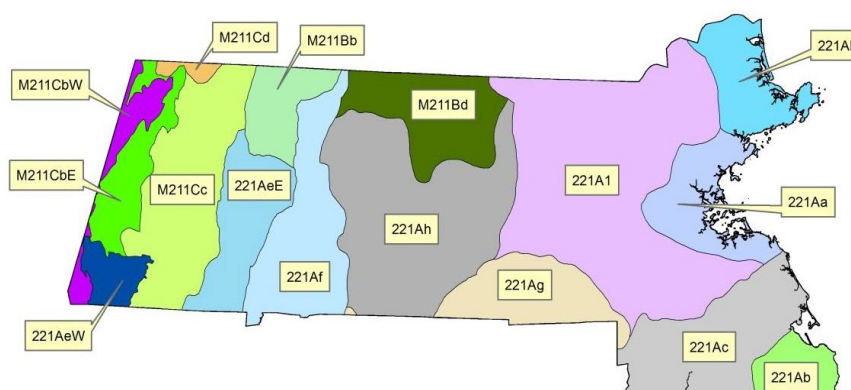
According to MassGIS 2016 land use data, approximately 71% of Cheshire's land is covered by forest. It consists primarily of an oak-maple hardwoods community, spruce-pine softwoods community, and hemlock-beech-mixed community. Hemlocks are found along steep, cool ravines. According to Mass Department of Environmental Protection GIS data, approximately 1/4 of the wetlands mapped are forested wetlands.

According to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), natural communities are defined as groups of species that are found together over and over again, usually in particular environmental conditions. Occurrences of a community type tend to be in sites with similar chemistry, soils, moisture, slopes, temperature ranges, and other physical conditions. The physical environment, geology, and regional climate are the most controlling features of any community, governing what species grow in different areas. Vertical diversity is provided by different layers of vegetation. Trees, shrubs, and tall herbaceous plants have different shapes and shade the lower layers differently. Different tree species also affect nutrient movement differently, influencing their co-occurrence with other species. Communities have horizontal diversity produced by variation in sunlight, moisture, rock, soil exposure, and other physical and

biological variables. Past disturbances, including glaciation thousands of years ago, and more recent hurricanes and human land use - particularly the extensive land clearing, cultivation, and reforestation that occurred after European settlement - influence the species mixes and community structure seen today.²

Cheshire's varied topography supports three general natural community ecoregions, as defined by MassWildlife: Taconic Highlands Association of the Taconic Mountains Ecoregion, Western New England Marble Valley Association of the Taconic Mountain Ecoregion and Berkshire-Vermont Upland Ecoregion (see Fig. 11).

Figure 11 Natural Communities Ecoregions of Mass.



Source: Swain, 2020.

The western hills of Cheshire are in the Taconic Highlands Association of the Taconic Mountains Ecoregion, which includes the mid- and upper slopes of the Taconics and Mt. Greylock in this hilly and mountainous region. Streams are generally small and high-gradient. The forests are predominantly northern hardwoods with some transition hardwoods to the south, both with hemlock and white pine. Red spruce and balsam fir mix with northern hardwoods in the upper elevations.

The northern portion of the Housatonic River Watershed, Cheshire Reservoir and the Hoosic River Valley are located in the Western New England Marble Valley Association of the Taconic Mountain Ecoregion. Land features here include the floodplains and rolling hills at the edges of the valleys, and some lower slopes of the surrounding mountains. Marble bedrock and large areas of calcareous outwash deposits are found in the river valleys, producing calcium-rich soil and water in the ecoregion that supports species found few other places in the state. Northern hardwoods dominate this ecoregion.

The eastern portion of Cheshire lies within the Berkshire-Vermont Upland Ecoregion, where low mountains with steep slopes reach down to narrow river valleys. Acidic soils from acidic bedrock and glacially derived materials occur throughout. Spruce mixes with northern hardwood forests in the higher northern areas, with transition forests to the south, where spruce is lacking even at higher elevations.³

² Swain, Patricia, 2020.

³ Swain, 2020.

Agricultural Land

As of 2016, approximately 11% of Cheshire's land is in agricultural use. For the purposes of this plan, agricultural lands in Cheshire are those listed in the MassGIS Land Use database as cultivated, pasture/hay and grasslands. These open farmlands are scattered across Cheshire, clustered in the lower hills of the Mt. Greylock complex and North Mountain, and most extensively in the northeastern portion of the Town. These open working landscapes contribute to the Town's rural character, providing a window to Cheshire's agrarian history. The fields that abut forest lands provide an edge habitat for wildlife, which provide both field and forest for those animal species that thrive best when having access to both ecosystems.

Wetland Vegetation

Approximately 1,165 acres within Cheshire have been mapped by the Massachusetts DEP as being open wetland resource ecosystems, including open waters, which can support aquatic and semi-aquatic plants and a variety of marsh/swamp wetlands (see Fig. ____). Wetlands include marshes and wet meadows dominated by herbaceous plants, swamps dominated by shrubs, and wooded swamps dominated by trees. The native aquatic vegetation found in lakes, ponds and marshes provide food and hiding areas for fish, particularly young fish, while emergent sedges, cattails and shrubs of open wetlands provide protective habitat for nesting birds. Forested wetlands provide habitat for a variety of animals that need wet conditions for breeding and raising young. The three types of forested wetlands constitute almost a quarter of all wetland acres that have been identified by DEP. These different wetland ecosystems provide an array of diverse wetland habitats, many of which can support rare plant and animal species.

Forest Land

Forests dominate the landscape of Cheshire outside of the town center, providing residents with a rural atmosphere and wildlife with large tracts of land for habitat. According to 2016 MassGIS Land Use data, there are approximately 12,548 acres of forest within the Town, supporting the diverse natural communities described previously. The more mature forests are typified by sugar maple, ash, oak, yellow birch, beech, spruce and hemlock. Successional forests are dominated by colonizing species such as popular, grey birch and white pine.

*Table 10 Mapped Wetland Acreage in Cheshire**

Wetland Type	Acres
Open Water	513
Shrub Swamp	246
Wooded Swamp Deciduous	214
Shallow Marsh Meadow or Fen	83
Wooded Swamp Mixed Trees	52
Deep Marsh	42
Wooded Swamp Coniferous	15
Total Wetland Acres	1,165

*Note: Does not include river/stream data

Source: MassGIS DEP Wetlands data

Priority and Exemplary Plant Communities

Natural communities may be restricted or widespread in their distribution throughout Massachusetts. NHESP gives conservation priority to types of natural communities that have limited distribution in the state and to those with restricted global distribution. These are referred

to as “Priority Natural Communities.” Within Cheshire, there are two types of priority natural communities that have been identified, and these are shown on the Vegetation map in purple.

Rich Mesic Forest Communities are found at elevations below 2,400 feet and are usually located on east or southeast facing slopes. Rich refers to the richness of nutrients found in these communities and mesic refers to the moderate moisture regime. Soils are generally deep and fallen leaves and other debris are usually incorporated into the soil quickly. In Massachusetts, this community is designated as S3, meaning it is vulnerable to extirpation in the state due to a restricted range, relatively few occurrences (often 80 or fewer), limited acreage, recent and widespread declines, or other factors. In Cheshire, this community is located in two areas west of Outlook Avenue near the Appalachian Trail along the steep slopes that lead toward the summit of Mt. Greylock.

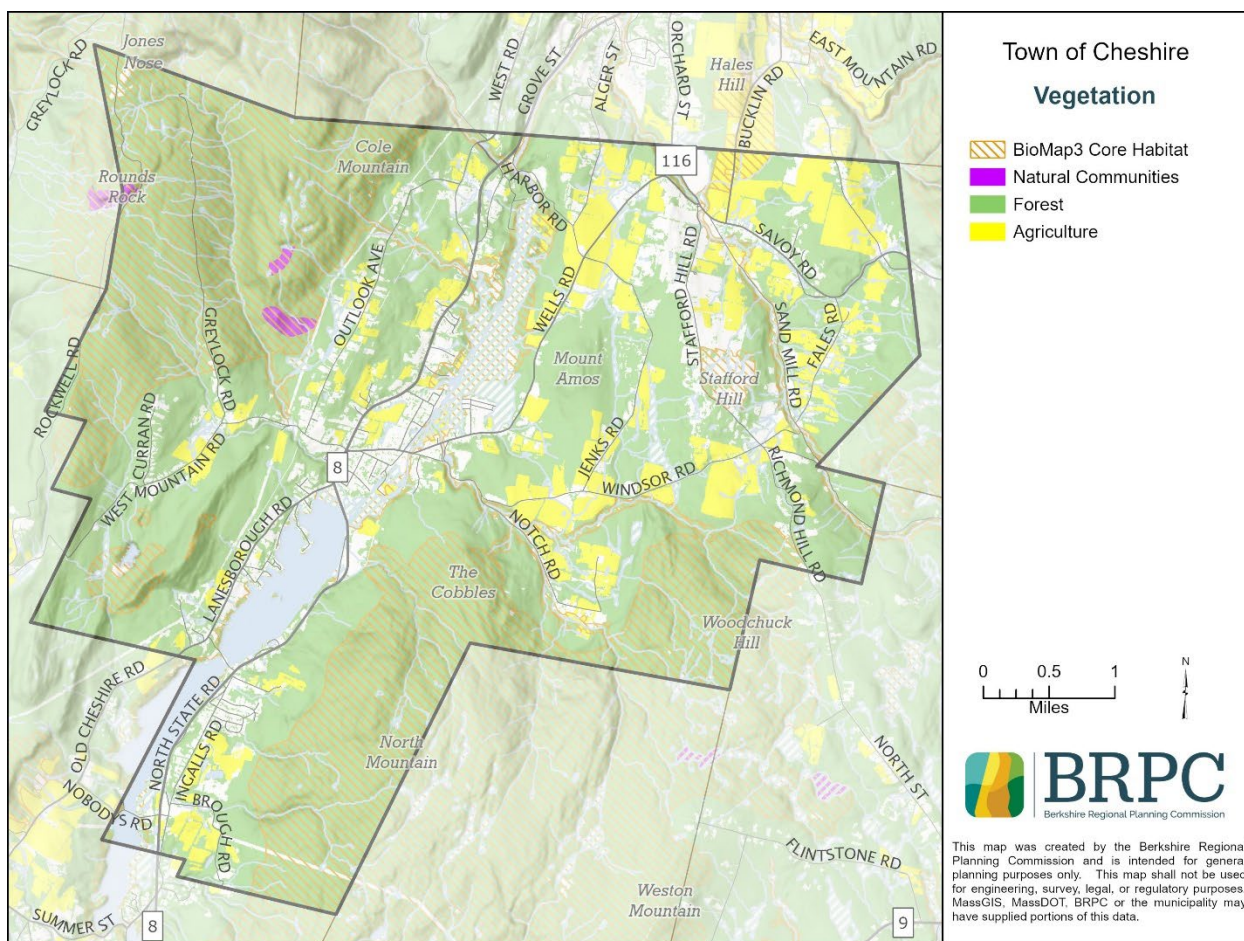
Calcareous Talus Forest communities form on loose rocky slopes (talus) below calcareous cliffs or rock outcrops. The soil between the talus is usually moist and loamy. Trees are usually found established on lower slopes near the base of the talus. This community is designated as S2, meaning it is imperiled in the state due to its rarity (typically 6-20 occurrences), very restricted range, few remaining acres or miles of stream, or very vulnerable to extirpation for other reasons. In Cheshire, this community, along with the “calcareous rocky summit” type are found at Rounds Rock, a rocky outcrop south of the summit of Mt. Greylock. This area is located near the town’s boundary with New Ashford and Lanesborough.

Public Shade Trees

Public shade trees are defined as trees located along the roadways within the public right of way and are regulated by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87. This law outlines the authorities of the Town’s Tree Warden, establishes procedures for cutting or removing public shade trees, and sets penalties for violations. The cutting and maintenance of trees along Town-owned roads can only occur by first holding a public hearing, or gaining approval from the Town’s Select Board, or in the case of designated Scenic Roads, the Town’s Planning Board.

Trees located along state highways are the jurisdiction of MassDOT and do not require a public hearing to be cut, unless the cutting is part of a large improvement project. Due to the large percentage of forested land in Cheshire, many roadways are tree-lined and viewsheds are dominated by the forested landscape.

Figure 12 Vegetation Map



Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plant Species

Massachusetts is home to a wide variety of plants and animals. Some species are relatively common while others less common or endangered. The Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) lists 259 species of plants as being vulnerable. These native species are listed as Endangered (E), Threatened (T), or of Special Concern (SC) and are tracked in the NHESP's database. These species are either at risk, or may become at risk, of extinction. Rarity in the state, population trend, and overall threat are the main criteria used to determine extinction risk. Under MESA, state-listed species are protected from being harmed by human activity, or a "take".

The following list of rare and endangered vascular plant species comes from the Massachusetts NHESP, as cited on their website on October 30, 2023⁴. The State Rank indicates Special Concern (SC) species are natives that have suffered a decline which could threaten the species, or have a small number, limited distribution, or specialized habitat; Threatened (T) species are likely to become endangered in the future; Endangered (E) species are in danger of

⁴ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/list-of-endangered-threatened-and-special-concern-species>

extinction. The Endangered plant species in Cheshire are most often found in mesic forests or calcareous wetland habitats. Priority Rare Species habitat areas in Cheshire are shown in red hatching on the Unique Features Map and the Fish and Wildlife Map. To protect some rare plants and animals that reside within these areas and could fall prey to collectors, NHESP does not reveal the exact site of some individual plant and animal populations.

Table 11 Rare Plants in Cheshire

Common Name	Scientific Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Obs.	Notes
Adder's Tongue Fern	<i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i>	T	1912	
Bailey's Sedge	<i>Carex baileyi</i>	T	2022	
Bristly Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus pensylvanicus</i>	SC	1915	
Broad Waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum canadense</i>	E	1912	Nearest verification 1984-2009 in Adams & Williamstown
Dioecious Sedge	<i>Carex sterilis</i>	T	2022	
Dwarf Scouring Rush	<i>Equisetum scirpoides</i>	SC	1916	
Foxtail Sedge	<i>Carex alopecoidea</i>	T	1983	
Frank's Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis frankii</i>	SC	2019	
Hairy Wood-mint	<i>Blephilia hirsuta</i>	E	2007	Rich mesic forest w/ mature hardwoods
Hairy-fruited Sedge	<i>Carex trichocarpa</i>	C	2009	
Labrador Bedstraw	<i>Galium labradoricum</i>	T	1921	
Large-leaved Goldenrod	<i>Solidago macrophylla</i>	SC	2010	
Large-leaved Sandwort	<i>Moehringia macrophylla</i>	E	2016	Steep rocky outcrops; only 3 populations known in state
Matted Spike-sedge	<i>Eleocharis intermedia</i>	T	1986	
Mountain Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium montanum</i>	E	1930	Nearest verification 1985-2010 in Gt. Barrington & Sheffield
Northern Bedstraw	<i>Galium boreale</i>	E	2020	Open calcareous fens or wet meadows
Schweinitz's Sedge	<i>Carex schweinitzii</i>	E	2009	Open calcareous wetlands; north Berk. Co. only known pops.
Slender Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium mucronatum</i>	E	1911	Nearest verification 1985-2010 in Williamstown
Slender Cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>	T	1911	
Woodland Millet	<i>Milium effusum</i>	T	2007	

Source: NHESP, <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rare-species-viewer> downloaded 10-30-23

4E. Fisheries and Wildlife (Refer to Fisheries and Wildlife Map, Figure 13)

Berkshire County is one of the most ecologically diverse and intact natural landscapes in the state. The region provides important expansive forest habitat that connects the northern forests of New England and New York northward to Canada and southward to the forests of the Appalachian Mountain chain, providing habitat, opportunities to enhance genetic diversity in species and safe passage for roaming animals like black bear, fisher and bobcat and treetop habitat for migratory birds. Providing wildlife travel ways will be increasingly important as some animal and plant species may need to migrate northward or higher in elevation to continue to survive in a warming climate. Large blocks of habitat are particularly important for animal populations that need large territories to sustainably live, breed and disperse, such as black bears and moose. Residents all across Cheshire can enjoy wildlife in their backyard, along hikes in woodlands and the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, and along the Town's many wetland resources. Ducks and geese, Great Blue Herons and the smaller Green Herons can all be found in Cheshire's streams and wetlands, observed nicely from shoreline portions of the rail trail.

In Cheshire the Chalet WMA and Stafford Hill WMS are adjacent to each other and offer a variety of habitats, due partially to a wide range in elevations (from approximately 1,000' along the Route 8 corridor to 2,265' atop Weston Mountain on the Dalton/Windsor border) and a mix of wetlands, forest and fields. In Chalet WMA several are kept open through haying to provide habitat for ground-nesting bird species. This also attracts deer, turkey, bear as well as furbearer species such as bobcats, coyotes, fishers, and beavers. Stafford Hill WMA contains high-elevation properties whose sloping fields and forests are home to a wide variety of wildlife. To enrich and improve the habitats found here, the agency actively manages areas of this property, including annual mowing to maintain grassland habitat and cover for upland birds such as ruffed grouse and woodcock and edge habitat for turkey. Moose, uncommon in the state, are found in both of these WMAs and the surrounding area. Ring-necked pheasants are stocked in both WMAs for the fall season.

Wildlife corridors between protected areas are important to the survival of threatened, rare and endangered species. Wildlife corridors occur in the town both along the ridgelines of the eastern and western edges of the town. The Berkshire Highlands along the eastern edge of town include portions of the Appalachian Trail, the Chalet Wildlife Management Area, and Stafford Hill Wildlife management area, and feature unbroken tracts of forest between Dalton in the south and Adams in the North. The Mount Greylock Range comprises the western boarder of the town and also features large, unfragmented forested land. The center of town is bisected by the Hoosic River and Reservoir, an important watercourse flowing from south to north. The waterways, forests and vernal pools provide habitat for common and rare reptiles and amphibians, and for common and rare insects, which provide the basis of the food chain for the wildlife we enjoy. Wildlife can also be found in the more densely developed Village Center for those animals who are less shy of humans, such as several songbirds, fox, coyote, bear, and deer.

E-Bird is a database for bird sightings that was created as a joint project between the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Users can submit bird sighting data for specific areas. Common areas for bird watching are listed as sighting "hot spots," and allow multiple users to organize their sightings geographically and to create multi-year records of bird sightings for a given area. Within Cheshire, there are several identified hot spots, including the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail (135 species sighted), at four sites along the three bodies of

Cheshire Reservoir (ranging from 107 to 165 at each site) and in Stafford Hill (119 species sighted).

Cheshire Reservoir is a local, year-round resource for anglers. MassWildlife has in the past stocked the lake with Northern pike and tiger muskellunge (last stocking 2021).

Coldwater Fisheries

Several streams throughout Cheshire are considered by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW) to be cold-water fisheries because of their ability to sustain reproducing wild trout populations and other species that require cool year-round temperatures. In general, coldwater streams in this region are those that flow through higher elevation forested areas where tree canopy shades the earth and stream channel. The Hoosic River is known to support native brook trout, as well as wild breeding populations of non-native brown trout. Annually in the spring, DFW stocks these waterways with trout: Dry and South Brooks and the Hoosic River. Cold water streams are shown in pink on the Fish and Wildlife Map and the Water Resources Map.

Cool-loving species like our iconic native brook trout and introduced rainbow trout become stressed when water temperatures approach 70°F and can die when waters reach 75°F for even a few hours. Thermal stress in cold water streams impacts the full aquatic food web, from the insects and other aquatic invertebrates at the bottom up to the trout and bass at the top of the food web. Specific, sensitive aquatic insects (e.g. stoneflies, mayflies, caddisflies) and the presence of brook trout often are used as indicators of good, clean cold streams. These habitats are highly vulnerable to slight increases in temperature, usually due to removal of shoreline vegetation that provided shade, heated runoff from roads and development, and the impacts of climate change. Efforts to maintain or increase shoreline vegetation and reduce surface runoff will help to maintain cold water fisheries for future generations.

Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are indispensable to biodiversity, both locally and globally. In many upland areas, where the nearest wetland or other waterbody is thousands of feet away, vernal pools are the only aquatic breeding grounds in the area. Some of the state's rarest amphibians, including the mole salamanders (Jefferson, spotted, marbled salamanders) and some species of freshwater snails and clams, are inexorably linked to the vernal pool in which they were hatched. Most live out their lives within ¼ miles of their natal pool, returning to breed. For a species with a narrow or small distribution, a specific vernal pool may be the only place in the region where the creature is found. If that pool is destroyed, that specific population of creatures could become locally extinct.

Vernal pools are most often found in the Berkshires in woodland areas, where evaporation from sunlight is limited due to the forest canopy. According to a data layer set developed by the Massachusetts DEP, there are 10 certified pools and 21 potential vernal pool sites in Cheshire. The locations of these resources are found on the Fish and Wildlife Map. This data layer has been developed through a desktop analysis, so the true number of vernal pools could be much higher due to thick forest canopy and dense areas of evergreen tree cover.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Animal Species

Some animal species are relatively common while others are less common or endangered. MESA lists 173 species of animals as being vulnerable in the state. The State Rank indicates Special Concern (SC) species are natives that have suffered a decline which could threaten the species, or have a small number, limited distribution, or specialized habitat; Threatened (T) species are likely to become endangered in the future; Endangered (E) species are in danger of extinction. To protect some rare plants and animals that reside within these areas and could fall prey to collectors, NHESP does not reveal the exact site of some individual plant and animal populations. Rarity in the state, population trend, and overall threat are the main criteria used to determine extinction risk. Under MESA, state-listed species are protected from being harmed by human activity, or a "take".

Cheshire's large tracts of forest and calcareous wetland habitats support several rare animal species. The areas where rare species are known to exist can be seen on the Fish and Wildlife Map.

According to the NHESP, many of the animals listed as having been documented in Cheshire depend on having access to an aquatic environment for all or some portion of their life cycles. Longnose Suckers need cool upper sections of streams and rivers with rock substrates while Bridle Shiner needs clear but slack streams and ponds with submerged aquatic vegetation. The Pied-billed Grebe is a shy bird that requires wetlands for breeding and raising their young, the Common Gallinule needs open waters that have cattails and other tall vegetation for hiding and nesting, the Wood Turtle lives most of its life on land near waterways and wetlands but require water or mud in which to overwinter, the Tuleet Bluet is an aquatic creature for part of its life, and the Jefferson Salamander breeds almost exclusively in vernal pools. Bald Eagles, always a thrill to see, prefer being near water for nesting and raising their young. Therefore, it is best to conserve not only the waterbodies and wetlands, but the surrounding area, which can provide the needed upland habitats, which can also act as a buffer from development and human intrusion. Limiting the impacts of development such as ground disturbance, tree removal and stormwater runoff, is key in maintaining water quality for prime habitat. Priority Rare Species habitat areas in Cheshire are shown in red hatching on the Unique Features Map and the Fish and Wildlife Map.

All four bat species that spend winters in caves or mines were listed as Endangered in Massachusetts in 2012. This includes the Little Brown Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Eastern Small-footed Bat, and Tricolored Bat. The Little Brown Bat was once the most abundant bat species in Massachusetts, but its population declined by 99% after the onset of White Nose Syndrome, an almost always fatal fungal disease. Human disturbance of overwintering sites should be discouraged or prevented with the use of gated entrances, in order to avoid arousal of hibernating bats and the spread of fungal spores.

Table 12 Rare Animals in Cheshire

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status	Most Recent Obs.	Notes
Eastern Small-footed Bat	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Mammal	E	2020	Avoid human intrusion of hibernation spots
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Mammal	E	2020	
Northern Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Mammal	E	2001	
Tricolored Bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Mammal	E	2020	
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bird	T	1976	
Common Gallinule (formerly Common Moorhen)	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	Bird	SC	Historic	
Mourning Warbler	<i>Geothlypis philadelphia</i>	Bird	SC	2007	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Bird	T	2018	
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Bird	E	1900	Known since 1983 in only 2 Berkshire towns
Wood Turtle	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Reptile	SC	2022	
Jefferson Salamander (complex)	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	Amphibian	SC	2013	
Bridle Shiner	<i>Notropis bifrenatus</i>	Fish	SC	1981	
Longnose Sucker	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>	Fish	SC	2002	
Early Hairstreak	<i>Erora laeta</i>	Butterfly/Moth	T	1993	
Tule Bluet	<i>Enallagma carunculatum</i>	Dragonfly / Damselfly	SC	1973	

Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rare-species-viewer> downloaded 10-30-23

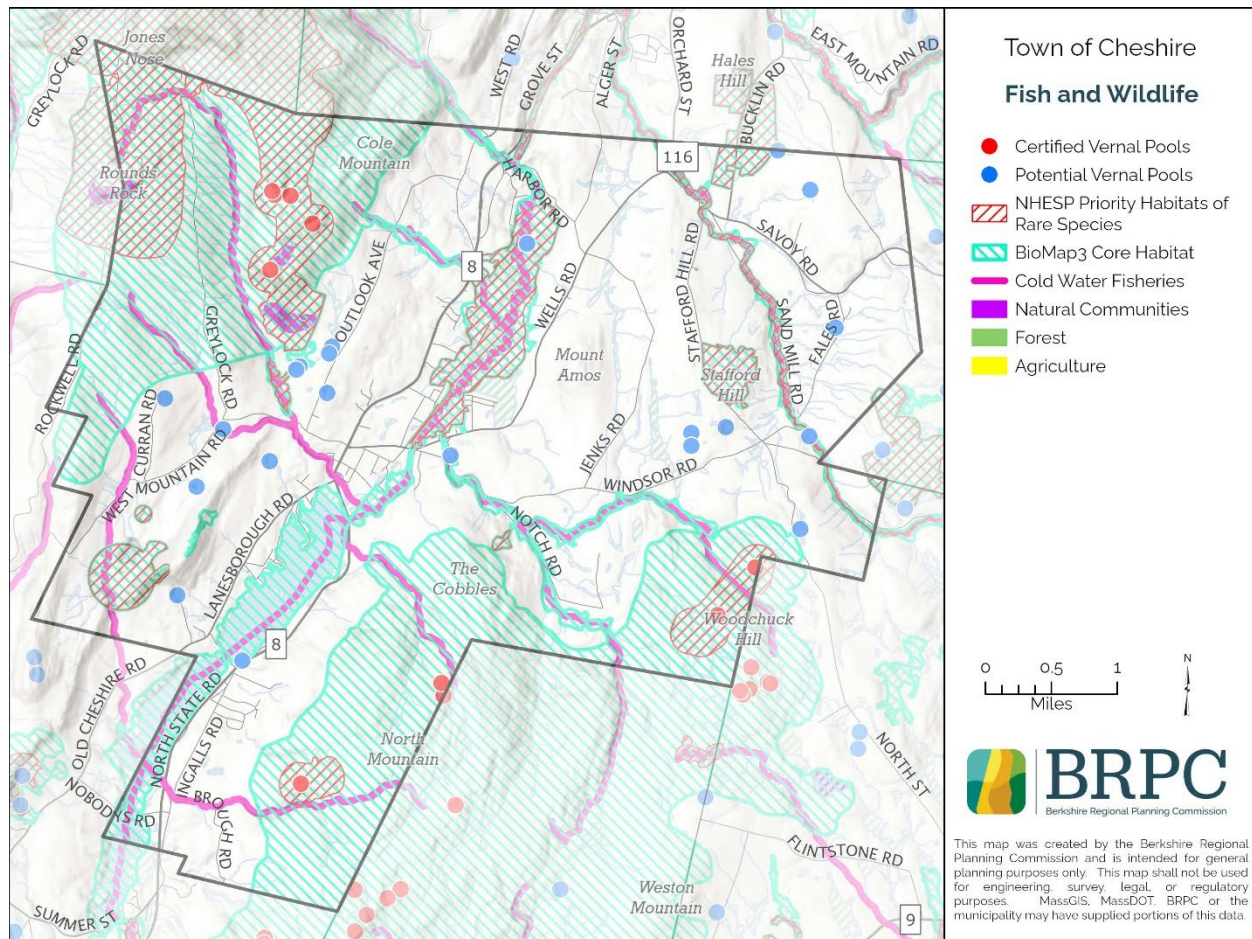
BioMap3

MassWildlife and The Nature Conservancy have partnered together to identify those areas in Massachusetts that are most critical for conserving biological diversity in Massachusetts. BioMap3 combines more than 40 years of rigorously documented rare species and natural community records from MassWildlife with cutting-edge climate resilience data from The Nature Conservancy to identify intact fish and wildlife communities, habitats, and ecosystems that are the focus of the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan. Core Habitat areas have been identified as those most critical for the long-term persistence of rare species, exemplary natural communities, and resilient ecosystems.

In Cheshire, Core Habitat areas often cover and surround habitats of known rare species and along Coldwater Fisheries. Much of these areas are in areas protected from develop, such as areas within Mt. Greylock State Reservation and Chalet and Stafford Hill Wildlife Management Areas. However, Cheshire Reservoir, the Hoosic River and its associated wetlands and the Coldwater Streams remain vulnerable to the impacts of development, from land disturbance to

tree removal to stormwater runoff. Also, a large area of land in the southwest corner of Cheshire, between West Mountain and Lanesborough Roads, has been identified as Core Habitat. The mapping created by BioMap3 offer the latest scientific data and resources to help state and local governments, land trusts, non-government organizations, and other conservation partners strategically plan projects to conserve wildlife and their habitats. BioMap3 Core Habitat areas are shown in hatching on the Fish and Wildlife and Vegetation Maps (Figure 13.)

Figure 13 Fisheries and Wildlife Map



4F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments (Refer to Unique Features Map)

MassAudubon Important Bird Areas (IBA)

MassAudubon has identified and documented key areas across Massachusetts in order to aid land managers in conserving and protecting habitats important for the long-term preservation of bird populations. An IBA is a site providing essential habitat to one or more species of breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. IBAs generally support high-priority species, large

concentrations of birds, exceptional bird habitat, and/or have substantial research or educational value. There are two IBAs located partially in Cheshire.

Central Berkshire Lakes IBA: Five major lakes/ponds in central Berkshire County have been designated as an Important Bird Area, with Cheshire Reservoir being the northern most waterbody. These lakes annually host considerable species of geese, ducks, loons, grebes, coots, gulls, and other water-loving species of birds during migration, especially fall. A combined total of at least 32 species of swans, geese, and ducks have been found on these lakes, as well as three species of loons, three species of grebes, the Double-crested Cormorant, and the American Coot. These lakes provide important stopover/feeding areas for dozens of species of waterfowl in the Housatonic River valley region of western Massachusetts, including the lower Hoosic Valley.

Mt. Greylock IBA: The land within Mt. Greylock State Reservation's borders has been designated as an IBA, which includes the northwestern portion of Cheshire. Mt. Greylock is the state's highest peak at 3,491 feet. The upper 800 to 900 feet of elevation sets Mount Greylock apart from any other place in the Commonwealth. The peak's upper section is host to a boreal forest plant community not found elsewhere in the state and more reminiscent of the vast boreal forest of Canada. The boreal forest zone of Mount Greylock holds the state's entire population of the Blackpoll Warbler, a species of Special Concern. It also contains the largest tract of old-growth forest remaining in the Commonwealth. Although the peak boreal zone is located in the Town of Adams, the lower elevations in Cheshire provide habitat support for those migrating in and out of the summit area.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Fondly known locally as the AT, this is one of the longest hiking-only footpath in the world. It stretches over 2,000 miles along the east coast from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mt. Katahdin in Maine. The trail was completed in the 1930s and is used by hikers for short day-hikes, longer multi-day hikes, or by "thru-hikers" who complete the trail in a single journey of several months. In Cheshire the AT crosses into the Town from Dalton on North Mountain, and descends toward Cheshire Village from the Cobbles. As the trail passes through Cheshire Village, it travels along Furnace Hill Road, Main and Church Streets and School Street. From here the trail moves northwesterly, crossing Route 8 and Outlook Avenue as it makes its way up steep slopes towards and over the summit of Mt. Greylock.

Cheshire is a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and is one of five Berkshire towns listed as an Appalachian Trail community (since 2018.) The town has a unique campsite available to AT hikers, the Father Tom Campsite. Located on the grounds of the Highway Department, the site features 12 tent sites, space for 3 hammocks, a porta potty, municipal water and electricity, and bicycles for hikers to use. The site is a first come, first served site and does not allow fires on site.

The Cobbles, a steep quartzite slope visible from Route 8 is a spur on the Appalachian Trail. A strenuous climb from the town center, this popular spot features views southward over the Cheshire/Hoosac Reservoir and was mentioned by many residents as a favorite in the survey. Parking for the site is limited and has been identified as an area in need of improvement.

Ashuwillticook Rail Trail

The Rail Trail is a 14-mile 10'-wide universally accessible multi-use path that begins in Pittsfield, travels through Lanesborough, Cheshire and Adams. The trail was constructed in the early 2000s along the abandoned Boston and Maine rail bed. In Cheshire, the trail passes along the eastern shore of Cheshire Lake/Hoosac Reservoir, where it has spectacular views of the shoreline and hills beyond. Access to the Rail Trail in Cheshire is found on Farnam's Road, Route 8 (near the northern end of Cheshire Reservoir), and in the Village Center.

Farnums causeway is on the Ashuwillticook Trail between the Upper and Middle Basins of the Cheshire Reservoir. The site offers parking for the trail, canoe/kayak access for the middle basin of the reservoir, fishing access for the upper reservoir (including a Accessible fishing pier), and seasonal bathrooms. Pettibone Caves and Falls are near the site and though not open to the public, offer important bat habitat in the approximately 600-foot-long cavern.

North of the Cheshire Reservoir, the Hoosic River spreads out into the floodplain for several miles on the eastern side of town. This densely vegetated area is locally referred to as the Jungle and is large wetland offering stormwater retention, important habitat for rare plant and animal species. The Ashuwillticook Trail traverses the western edge, offering visitors a view of the wetlands and access for fishing and canoeing.

Cultural, Archeological and Historic Areas

As noted in the Cheshire Master Plan, there are several cultural and historic sites in Town. MACRIS is a statewide database of historic and cultural resources maintained by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). MACRIS records for the Town of Cheshire show almost 180 individual historic inventory items in several categories including areas, buildings, burial grounds, objects, and structures. It is important to note that while many historic buildings and other resources are scattered throughout town, the majority are clustered within the Cheshire Village area, particularly Church, Depot, and South Streets.

Farnam's Village Historic District is on the National Register of Historic Places, centered around the intersection of Farnam's Causeway Road, Old Cheshire Road, and Lanesborough Road. As noted in the National Register nomination:

The limestone mining village of Farnam's is located in the foothills of Mount Greylock on the west side of Hoosic Lake, or Cheshire Reservoir. The landscape is known as an upland karst valley and contains a system of caves and limestone deposits. The village consists of twenty primary buildings laid out around the cross- roads of Lanesborough, Quarry, and Farnam's roads. It is an area which contains in a mountainous woodland setting a limestone quarry, originally connected to a limestone processing mill by a railway and tunnel; limestone crusher, workers' housing, office building, stockroom, carpentry shop, and a small network of mining roads. Buildings and mining structures in the area date largely between 1900 and 1930.

The Old Church-yard Cemetery, also known as the Jenks Road or Stafford Hill Cemetery, is located adjacent to 918 Jenks Rd. The cemetery was the burial ground for the original settlers of Cheshire (first known as New Providence) and the site of the first Baptist Church in the region. There are around 70 headstones in the cemetery, dating from 1785 to 1848.

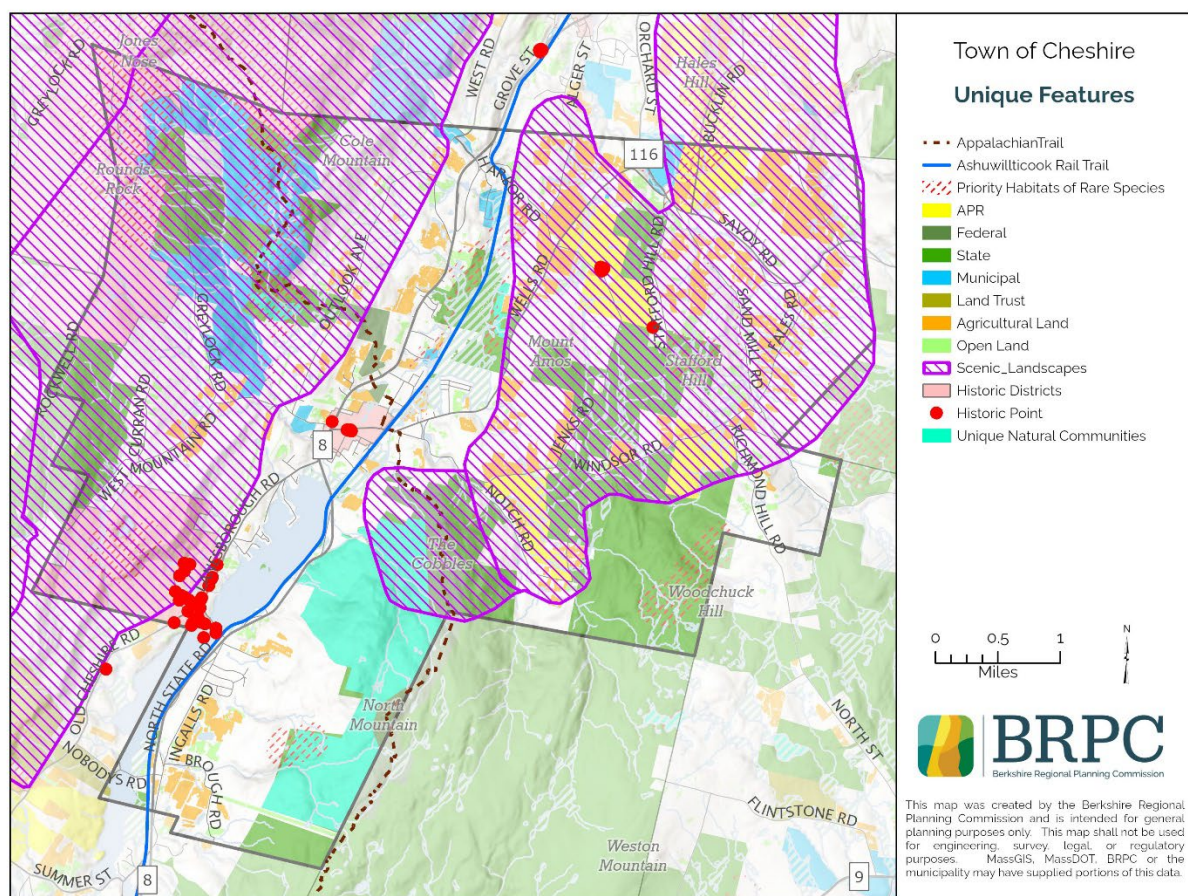
Cheshire Town Hall is a recent addition to the National Register of Historic Places. The building was constructed in 1898 and was designed by architect Emory Ellsworth. Ellsworth was a graduate of the University of Massachusetts (then Massachusetts Agricultural College) who went on to design several buildings for the University as well other public structures in Western Mass.

The structure, a 2 1/2 story cruciform-shaped building, is listed as being in the early Georgian revival style.

Hall's Tavern was constructed in 1804 and is listed as being of the 18th century Federal style construction. The building is located along Route 8 on the left side of the road just north of the intersection of Church Street. According to the historical inventory record for the building, British soldiers during the War of 1812 were held as prisoners here, and the building was a secret meeting place for the Masonic Lodge.

The Stafford Hill Memorial is both a memorial to and the final resting place of Joab Stafford. Stafford was one the original settlers of Cheshire and a military hero of the American Revolutionary War and specifically, the Battle of Bennington. The stone tower that marks the site is a replica of an original stone tower from Newport, RI, Stafford's home prior to settling Cheshire. The memorial tower and Stafford's crypt were constructed in 1927.

Figure 14 Unique Features Map



4G. Environmental Challenges

The Cheshire Open Space and Recreation Committee, using the guidance provided by the *Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook* (EOEEA, 2008), has identified the pressing environmental challenges that face the Town.

Environmental Justice and Equity

As noted by the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), Environmental Justice is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution, and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment. This means that Towns should identify and strive to address any disproportionate share of environmental burdens experienced by lower-income residents and communities of color who, at the same time, may lack environmental assets in their neighborhoods. In practice, there are basically two frameworks of environmental equity:

- Stopping the environmental "bads," such as a disproportionate burden of toxics; and
- Promoting the environmental "goods," such as assuring access to parks, green amenities, and recreational opportunities.⁵

Cheshire is fortunate in that two trail systems travel through the lower elevations and gentler terrain of the Hoosic River Valley: the north-south Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and the southeast-northwest AT. These trails intersect in the center of Cheshire and are found within a mile of most of the more densely populated areas, including the historic Village Center, Berkshire Village Mobile Home Park and the developed shoreline of Cheshire Reservoir. The playground and playing fields at the Cheshire Community Center are also located in the Village Center.

Those residents who live along rural outlying roads often have access to the WMA and DCR lands that ring the western and eastern portions of the Town, but access to trail heads, if the site has any, is varied and often lacking. The trails in the Mt. Greylock State Reservation are best suited to those who can safely hike steep and aggressive terrain, and the WMAs are generally best suited for those who prefer a wild experience with little or no trail systems. The locations of public recreational lands, the AT and the rail trail can be found on the Open Space Map.

Landfills, Brownfields and Hazardous Waste Sites

According to MassDEP data, there have been 31 reportable releases of oil or hazardous waste in Cheshire since 1988.⁶ These releases tend to be small spills of oil or hazardous waste that are reported to DEP and cleaned up to comply with the agency's direction. Most sites are small commercial properties, but a few have been on residential properties. All but two sites have been cleaned up, and these are two Tier I hazardous waste sites in Cheshire. Sites will be classified as Tier I if (1) there is contamination of groundwater close to actual or potential drinking water supply, (2) there is an imminent hazard to health, safety, public welfare or the

⁵ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/objectives-of-environmental-justice>

⁶ <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite/results?SearchType=All%20Sites&TownName=CHESHIRE> downloaded 12-3-23

environment, or (3) immediate remedial action is required. One site is on private property on Mallard Cove and an Interim Report for cleanup response has been submitted to DEP. The second site is on Main Street and is in the process of being monitored. There are no sites in Cheshire that are encumbered with an Activity and Use Limitation. This designation provides notice of the presence of oil and/or hazardous material contamination remaining at the location after a cleanup has been conducted pursuant to Chapter 21E and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan.

The 2000 Cheshire OSRP mentioned several sites that are worth noting in the plan. A dump site on Gore Brook north of Whitney's Farm Market and Garden Center was in the process of remediation. This site flowed into the Cheshire Reservoir middle basin but no adverse effects from leaching chemicals were found to exist and there is currently no record of the cleanup effort at the site. An abandoned Gravel pit, east of Route 8 was identified as a potential source of sedimentation in nearby wetland habitats. The site is currently occupied by a wood processing and landscaping business and has not been flagged by the conservation commission or MASS DEP.

A former landfill on Notch Road, in the Western portion of town was closed in 1976 is listed on the Mass DEP list of Inactive and Closed Landfills as being capped. Currently, the town operates a transfer station at the Department of Public Works that hauls all waste to Pittsfield.

Erosion and Excessive Sedimentation

According to the draft Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (2023), erosion of some drainage channels along steeply-sloped roadways occurs during severe storm events, and these severe storms seem to be increasing in number and severity in recent years. Fortunately, outside of roadways, there is little development along these ravines, which helps to minimize development-related impacts. Windsor Road and Savoy Road (aka Route 116) have histories of storm-related bank erosion and road failures, partially due to steep-sloped ravines and stream crossings. Route 116 is particularly crucial as it provides access to the regional middle and high school, serving not only the students of Cheshire but also those from surrounding areas. Furthermore, Route 116 serves as a lifeline for residents in rural hilltowns situated to the east, such as Savoy and Windsor, by providing them with access to essential services. Culvert replacement and upgrading is occurring on 116 on the eastern boarder with Savoy in several locations.

Excessive sedimentation is a concern in the several basins of the Cheshire Reservoir. The shallow depth of all three basins combined with plant growth (including invasive species) is contributing to the eutrophication of the reservoir. The excessive weed growth, shallow muddy bottom, and lack of access points limit swimming in the reservoir.

Flooding

Cheshire drafted its first Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan in 2023. During the planning process for that plan, flooding of roads was identified as the top natural hazard as rated by officials and residents. Route 8 is the main route through Town, crossing from south to north, serving as a main regional artery for north-south commuter, commercial and emergency travel. It hugs the eastern shore of Cheshire Reservoir and runs through the center of the Town. In addition, Route 8 connects to several residential streets that branch off from it, serving as important access points to and from residential areas. The proximity of Route 8 to the reservoir increases the risk of flooding during heavy rainfall or severe weather events. The road has been

temporarily closed during winter when large blocks of ice from Kitchen Brook are thrust up on the road during thawing/high stream flows and have to be removed with heavy equipment.

In Cheshire, flooding conditions also threaten the population at the Berkshire Village mobile home park off Dublin Road, which is comprised largely of low-income and elderly residents. Residents have in past decades reported flood damage at some homes. Although in recent years the trailer homes have not themselves been inundated, the road into the neighborhood floods at least once a year. Also, while the neighborhood is not itself in the floodplain as delineated in the FIRM, it is surrounded by wetlands and floodplain, and some areas in the park can at times become inundated during heavy precipitation events. The flooding of the road is an indication to residents and first responders that flooding is probable and could cut off emergency access, so a CodeRed is issued to residents to inform them of flood risk. Other areas where properties are impacted by flooding are along the Cheshire Reservoir shoreline, where some septic systems tend to fail when water levels of the lake reach higher levels.

Flood impacts could effect a portion of properties along the Hoosic River and surrounding area in the center of Town if the Cheshire Reservoir dam were to fail. According to a draft Emergency Action Plan developed in 2018 for Cheshire Reservoir dam, inundation could impact properties on Main Street (including the DPW facility), where flooding could be up to two feet deep

Forestry Issues

Several invasive plant species threaten the natural and dynamic diversity of Cheshire's forests. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a pest that is expected to ravage ash trees in the same manner that Dutch Elm Disease killed our stately elm trees. The EAB was first discovered neighboring Dalton in 2012 and since that time has spread to every community in Berkshire County. Infestations of the borer result in a very high mortality rate. Early stages of infestation in a tree will be seen in the canopy and upper trunk, but as the population density grows, EAB will infest the lower trunk. Tree damage and eventual mortality is caused by the larval feeding on the trees' cambium, eventually girdling and killing the tree. EAB-dying ash trees are easily identified because of the presence of D-shaped exit holes and bark that is bleached and flaking off. Weakened and dead trees will become safety hazards, especially along streets, utility lines and near structures.

Other invasive species that can threaten forest structure include bittersweet, which can engulf and take down a stand of trees within a few years, and the hemlock wooly adelgid, which threatens the cool-loving hemlock stands that cover steep ravines and protect coldwater streams. Introduced to the United States from Japan and Korea, Asian Jumping Worms are spreading into the Northeast and recent evidence suggests that they have reached Cheshire. These organisms can change forest ecology by outcompeting native worms and overconsuming of leaf litter thereby changing microbial characteristics in the soil.

Figure 15: Evidence of Emerald Ash Borer Infestation



D-shaped holes from EAB

Development Impact

Traditional development patterns involve removal of native vegetation, often forest cover, grading and sometimes removal of native soils, and installation of impervious surface areas such as buildings, roads, parking lots and driveways. All of these activities diminish the land's ability to accommodate wildlife and absorb surface runoff. Although lawns and decorative shrubs are often planted, these land covers cannot function as wildlife habitat and absorb runoff as well as the original forest did.

Aquatic habitats and their surrounding riparian and floodplain areas are some of our most biologically productive areas, hosting a disproportionately higher number of rare species than corresponding uplands. They provide breeding habitat for reptiles and amphibians who need both water and land to fulfill their life cycles and provide resiliency against the impacts of climate change. A large percentage of riparian and other wetland habitats has already been developed over past centuries for agricultural, industrial, and residential uses. The Wetlands Protection Act provides some protection from development within 200 feet of streams and rivers, but development is not prohibited entirely from this area. Development within the floodplain is discouraged but can be allowed if compensatory flood storage is created in the vicinity.

Shoreline development along Cheshire Reservoir and adjacent to streams and wetlands can introduce new sources of nonpoint pollution into these water-based natural habitats. Traditional construction includes the removal of trees and other shoreline vegetation, the planting of lawns down to the water's edge and the introduction of impervious surface areas. Removing pre-construction vegetation removes the water quality and habitat benefits that native vegetation provided.

Cheshire should strive to guide development so that impacts to wildlife and water quality are minimized to the extent possible. This should include minimal clearing on new lots and a requirement to maintain shoreline vegetation. The creation of a pathway through the vegetation allows homeowners access to the water. Vista pruning of a few lower tree branches will provide a framed view of the water. The use of lawn chemical applications should be discouraged or closely monitored.

Because vernal pools are only prominently noticeable part of the year when they hold water, these vital habitats are extremely vulnerable to being destroyed by development. The most effective way to protect vernal pools is to identify and certify them. The certification affords the pools and their surrounding area some protection from development. Vernal pools that are associated with Wetland Resources, such as riverfront or forested wetlands, are afforded some protection by the Mass. Wetland Protection Act. However, small, isolated pools not associated with a Wetland Resource are not protected by the Act.

Figure 16 Tape Grass infestation at Cheshire Reservoir.



Source: Town of Cheshire, 2023.

Aquatic Invasive Species and Surface Water Pollution

Cheshire's surface waters, its coldwater streams and many lakes and ponds provide valuable wildlife habitat and offer outdoor recreational opportunities. The lakes and ponds are a draw for homeowners and camps and important economic contributors to the Town's economy. Maintaining water quality and the integrity of the aquatic habitat are key to preserving these waters for future generations.

Cheshire Reservoir is divided into three basins by causeways. The reservoir's shallow depth makes it prone to accelerated aquatic plant growth, and several non-native aquatic plants are disrupting the ecosystem by outcompeting native species. Submerged vegetation is abundant, leading to ongoing invasive species management for Water Chestnut, Eel Grass, Cyanobacteria, Eurasian Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed, European Naiad, and Thin-leaf Pondweed.

In 2016, boating and fishing were severely disrupted due to the rapid growth of "tape grass" caused by a mild winter, long spring, and hot summer coupled with low water levels. Large masses of tangled tape grass formed a thick carpet along the shoreline, despite 80 dump truckloads of dead and rotting tape grass being removed from the Reservoir. Currently, the Town relies on annual herbicide treatment to reduce excessive aquatic plant overgrowth.

Cheshire Reservoir is also considered at high risk for the invasive Zebra Mussels based on water chemistry, although no mussels have yet to be found to date. Vigilant monitoring and boat washing should be conducted to reduce the risk of infestation by this species, which has been found in waters in southern Berkshire County and has recently been detected in Pittsfield (summer 2023).

Stormwater and Road Runoff

Stormwater runoff is the greatest single source of nonpoint pollution in Massachusetts. Roads often parallel rivers, streams and brooks, and roadways are now recognized as one of the most serious sources of non-point source pollution. Roads are typically crowned to allow water to drain away quickly from the center and onto surrounding lands. If the road has a storm drain system the water is collected and piped directly into the nearest waterway. Sand, salt, debris, and auto-derived pollutants enter the waterway untreated. If the road does not have a storm drain system, the water flows off the road and onto the surrounding land or the adjacent waterway or

wetland. Unnaturally warmer runoff from roads, parking lots and lawns can increase water temperatures in streams and other waterways, particularly impacts Cold Water Fisheries that support native trout.

Cheshire is within the Pittsfield Urbanized Area and thus included in the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) 2018 General Permit. As such the Town has done more extensive study and mapping of their stormwater sewer system than most municipalities of similar size. Cheshire's stormwater system is focused around the Town center (maintained by the Town) and along Route 8 (maintained by MassDOT). The Town maintains nearly 300 catch basins, manholes and the associated sewer pipes.

Impaired Water Bodies

As part of the Clean Water Act reporting, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed Planning program reports the status of all state waters to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for habitat for fish and other aquatic life, fish and shellfish consumption, primary and secondary contact recreation. Waters are rated on a 5 point scale with increasing impairments, Category 1 waters are unimpaired while Category 5 waters are impaired and require a total maximum daily load (TMDL) restoration plan. Information presented in the 2022 reporting period indicates that a TMDL draft is currently being developed for rivers in the Hudson Watershed (including the Hoosic River.)

Ratings for Cheshire surface waters include:

- Category 2: Bassett Brook, Kitchen Brook, South Brook, Thunder Brook
- Category 3: Gore Brook, Kitchen Brook, McDonald Brook, Penniman Brook, Pettibone Brook
- Category 4: Cheshire Reservoir (Middle Basin)
- Category 5: Cheshire Reservoir (North Basin), Cheshire Reservoir (South Basin), Hoosic River

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

As noted in *America's Great Outdoors, A Promise to Future Generations*, outdoor recreation provides American's physical and emotional rejuvenation and promotes respect for our natural heritage. Research indicates that regular exposure to nature lowers stress, cultivates creativity, and builds self-confidence among young people. Heritage landscapes, which provide us with a sense of our cultural and agricultural past. Revenue from farms and forests support local families, some of whom have worked the land for generations. Local farms also provide fresh produce and meat, while forests provide wood products, heating fuel and maple syrup.

Some local Farms include:

- Ayrhill Farm, hay and fall products
- Elmartin Farm, producing grass fed Beef and Pork
- Winterpast Farm/Balawender Farm- home to Tommy the world record tallest ox
- Whitney's Farm Market, and Garden Center, featuring locally grown produce, a deli, bulk products, nursery, and seasonal events and agritourism
- Square Roots Farm, pasture raised chicken, turkey, pork, eggs, grass-fed beef and CSA shares
- Lakeview Orchard, u-pick and farms store featuring apples, peaches, pears, plums, etc. as well as baked goods, cider, and flowers.
- Mountain View Farm, u-pick strawberries, blueberries, and pumpkins

Undeveloped natural lands serve many natural and social functions, including wildlife habitat and corridors, water quality protection, flood control and, with the growing impacts of climate change, carbon sequestration. Conserved undeveloped lands entice residents to enter a fresh and quiet environment and to reconnect with nature. Outdoor recreation is increasingly seen as a way to increase peoples' activity level and combat health issues such as high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes.

Fortunately, the Town of Cheshire has a mixture of open space, scenic resources, and recreational areas that add to the quality of life here. The forested and challenging trails of the Mt. Greylock State Reservation, the forests and open landscapes of the Wildlife Management Areas, and the boating, fishing and birdwatching opportunities offered on and along Cheshire Reservoir offer residents a variety of outdoor recreation activities. The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail is a gem that offers people of all abilities the chance to travel through a rural landscape, with the added amenities of resting areas, snacks, and toilets at various stops along its length.

This section contains an inventory of undeveloped lands of interest that provide environmental benefits to both wildlife and Cheshire residents. Listed in this section are important parcels with a description of their ownership and management, the level of accessibility to the public, and the level of protection from development they hold. The lands with the highest level of protection are those owned and managed by the federal and state governments and those on which conservation or agricultural deed restrictions have been placed. Other large tracts of undeveloped land with a good deal of protection are the municipal lands such as the drinking water supply protection lands, as long as the drinking water source remains needed.

Approximately 7,250 acres of land within Cheshire (41% of the Town's total acreage) are considered open space lands which are permanently protected from development, the bulk of which is state-owned land. This leaves the majority of land in Town unprotected from future development. Protected land does not include Cheshire Reservoir, which is considered aquatic land cover.

There are differing levels of protection that are involved in open space and recreation lands. Most federal and state lands maintained for conservation and recreation can be regarded as permanently protected lands. Most conservation lands owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are protected under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, and to remove protection status of these lands for development would require an act of the state legislature. Although such a scenario could occur, the action would undoubtedly be contentious. Other lands that can be considered permanently protected are private lands upon which an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) or Conservation Restriction (CR) or easement has been placed.

The Town of Cheshire owns a total of 910 acres of undeveloped land in various sites across the Town. None of the lands owned by the Town of Cheshire are believed to be protected by conservation deed restrictions and so could be vulnerable to change. However, all municipal parklands in Massachusetts are subject to Article 97, an amendment to the state constitution, and to remove protection status of these lands would require a 2/3 vote of the State Legislature. Although this could occur, it is unlikely. Although it is unlikely that Cheshire would sell public open space lands for development, there could arise a situation in which the public benefits of the land transfer would outweigh the cost of losing open land.

*Table 13 Summary of Open Space Lands with Some Level of Protection
(Refer to Figure 17: Open Space Lands of Particular Interest)*

Ownership	Size in Acres	Level of Protection
Federal (Appalachian Trail corridor)	310	High
State (DCR, DFW)	5,106	High
Private Lands with APRs and CRs	817	High
Town of Cheshire (various parcels)	910	Varies
Town of Adams (drinking water protection)	51	High
Chapter 61, 61A, 61B (acres also under APRs or CRs not included in this total)	4,270	Low
Hoosac Valley Middle & High School	56	Low
Total Acres	11,520	

Source: BRPC and Assessor Data 2023.

5A. Private Parcels

Deed Restricted Conservation Lands

There are areas in Cheshire where the landscape is shaped by privately-owned working farms that reflect the Town's agricultural heritage.

There are a few properties where private landowners have placed deed restrictions on their land. A deed restriction is a legal agreement between a landowner and another entity in which the owner agrees to restrict the use of the land. Activities such as farming, forest or wildlife management, recreation and other land uses that the property owner wishes to pursue continue to be allowed. The landowner continues to own the property, but if the land is sold, the new owners must comply with the provisions of the CR, which has been placed on the deed and is transferred in perpetuity. APRs are typically held by the Commonwealth while CRs can be held by governmental agencies, land trusts, environmental organizations and municipalities (Conservation Commissions often hold CRs). A total of 817 acres of private land is permanently protected through APRs and CRs. Conservation restrictions reduce the tax burden on the property and may also provide funding to the landowner if another entity agrees to hold the restriction on the land. APR lands are shown on the Open Space Land of Interest Map in yellow, while the CR land is shown in tan.

Several farm properties are protected from development under the APR program. These lands provide open space and scenic benefits to residents as well as providing locally-sourced agricultural products. These lands are not typically open for public recreational use because they are working farmscapes. The exception is where the landowner may allow recreational uses with permission, traditionally allowing hunting on the property.

The Ayrhill Farms deed-restricted lands cover a large expanse of land that is located along Henry Wood Road in Cheshire and stretches northward into Adams. The open fields along this rolling landscape provide spectacular views that stretch west to Mt. Greylock and south into Cheshire. A total of contiguous protected lands is located here, with 126 acres protected in Cheshire and another 276 acres protected in Adams.

The Toporowski and Moor APRs provide protected landscapes that connect conserved wildlife habitats within the Stafford Hill WMA. Working farms, with their open landscapes, can provide complementary wildlife habitats by offering edge habitats and travel corridors, including stop overs for migrating bird species. Likewise, the Janowicz and Martin APR lands provide complementary open space lands that connect different areas of the Chalet WMA. The small portion (six acres) of the Fletcher Farm located on the Cheshire Reservoir shore in Cheshire is an extension of the farm that is predominantly (approx. 180 acres) in neighboring Lanesborough.

Table 14 Deed-restricted Agricultural and Conservation Lands

Site Name	Owner	Activities	Public Access	Acres
Ayrhill Farms APR	Ayrhill Farms Inc	Agriculture	N	126
Fletcher Farm CR	Gallagher, T	Agriculture	N	6
Janowycz APR	Janowycz Michael W and Lubow M	Agriculture	N	126
Martin APR	Kim I Martin and E. Shawn Martin	Agriculture	N	330
Moore Farm APR	Moore Donald H and Eileen F	Agriculture	N	114
Toporowski Farm APR	Casimer Toporowski LT	Agriculture	N	115
Total				817

Source: BRPC and Assessor Data 2023.

Chapter 61 Tax Program Lands

Chapter 61 is a tax abatement program that offers a 95% tax savings to forest landowners. The intent of the program is to protect and enhance the state's timber-producing capacity. To qualify for Chapter 61, landowners must have a minimum of 10 acres that are suitable for timber production. Like Chapter 61, Chapter 61A is a voluntary enrollment program for preferential tax assessment based on current agricultural use of the land. Chapter 61A requires a five-acre minimum of agricultural land which must produce a minimum number of agricultural products. Chapter 61B is a recreational land classification program designed to encourage the preservation of open space and promote recreational uses. To qualify for Chapter 61B the landowner's property must consist of at least 5 acres that are suitable for recreational purposes. The program offers a 75% tax savings.

The Chapter 61 tax programs are of interest to municipalities for two main reasons. First, lands that are managed for forest, agricultural or recreational uses remain open and scenic, helping communities maintain their historically rural roots. Second, if a property that is enrolled in any of the Chapter 61 programs is placed on the real estate market for a change of use, the Town has a 120-day right of first refusal to purchase the property at fair market value. For example, if a farm purchased for the development of a subdivision or a commercial use, which is different from its current agricultural use, then the Town has the right to purchase that property before anyone else. This gives the community some control over the destiny of its rural character. If the Town does not acquire the land and it does change use, the tax savings that had accumulated during the land's enrollment in the Chapter 61 program must be paid back in full prior to the land use taking place.

There are 36 property owners in Cheshire that have placed all or a portion of their lands into one of the Chapter 61 Tax Abatement Programs. The total acreage of land enrolled in the

Chapter 61 tax programs is 4,270 acres. Of these, 604 acres are also permanently protected by APRs. When considering the protection level of solely having the land enrolled in the Chapter 61 tax programs, there are a total of 3,666 acres. A table of lands, ownership and acreage is found in Appendix C.

As can be seen on the Open Space Lands of Interest map, many of the Chapter lands are located adjacent to existing permanently protected state properties. Communicating and creating partnerships with these landowners could lead to additional conservation or agricultural restrictions, which would create long-term linkages between conserved lands for future protection of habitat, biodiversity and potential recreational opportunities.

Privately Owned Recreational Areas of Interest

Most of the undeveloped land in Cheshire is privately owned. The Cheshire Rod & Gun Club owns 85 acres of land at the end of Curran Road, directly abutting land within the Mt. Greylock State Reservation. This land is enrolled in the Chapter 61B tax program and is included in the total presented in Table 15.

Table 15 Privately-Owned Recreational Areas

Address	Owner	Public Access	Level of Protection	Acres
Curran Road	Cheshire Rod & Gun Club	Yes, with permission	Low (Ch.61B)	85
Total				85

Source: BRPC and Assessor Data 2023.

5B. Public and Non-profit Parcels

A significant portion of Cheshire is owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and includes state forests, Cheshire Reservoir and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). The National Parks Service owns parcels along the National Scenic Appalachian Trail (AT). Together these state- and federally-owned lands total 5416 acres, or 31% of Cheshire's total land area.

State and Federal Lands

Cheshire is fortunate in that state-owned lands in Town offer a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for people of all abilities. For those who seek a challenging hike, the Appalachian Trail (AT) travels northwest up steep terrain to the Mt. Greylock Summit or southeast through the Cobble to North Mountain. For those who need or prefer more level terrain the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail travels north to Adams and south to Lanesborough. These two trails intersect in the Village Center, providing easy access to either option. For those who prefer a more wilderness experience with little or few trails, the WMAs provide large contiguous acres across a variety of terrains and habitats.

Cheshire Reservoir is arguably the most prominent outdoor recreational asset in Cheshire, providing residents and visitors with opportunities to view wildlife, fish, boat and relax along the shoreline. The lake is popular year-round with anglers, including hosting fishing derbies for

residents of all ages. Public boat launches are found on Route 8 and Farnam's Road, each with an estimated 8-10 parking spots. The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail travels alongside the lake, from which scenic views of the water set against a mountainous backdrop can be enjoyed. As noted in the previous section, Cheshire Reservoir and its accompanying wetland complexes are key Central Berkshire birdwatching areas, especially for water-dependent species.

The National Park Services owns land in Cheshire along the AT, which crosses into Berkshire County from Connecticut and moves northward where it leaves the county in Clarksburg and enters Vermont. In Cheshire, the AT crosses into the town from Dalton on North Mountain and descends toward Cheshire Village from the Cobbles. The trail passes through Cheshire Village, where it intersects with the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and moves northwesterly, crossing Route 8 and Outlook Avenue as it makes its way up steep slopes towards the Mt. Greylock Summit. As discussed in the previous section, the AT is a community asset that is embraced by residents of Cheshire and beyond.

The Mt. Greylock State Reservation, more than 12,400 acres in size, is a large state holding maintained by DCR that surrounds Mt. Greylock, the state's highest peak (3,491' elevation). This property has 70 miles of trails, many of which are rated strenuous or aggressive. From Cheshire, access to the trail system is found off of the AT on Outlook Avenue or Greylock Mountain Road. While there are many outdoor activities and facilities offered within the Reservation, with the exception of the trail system, all of these facilities are located outside the Town's borders.

The two WMAs in Cheshire are adjacent to each other and are open to hiking, hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing. Chalet WMA is a large holding of more than 7,000 acres that stretches across the towns of Dalton, Cheshire, and Windsor. Approximately 1/3 of these acres are within Cheshire's borders. Parking in Cheshire for this WMA is found on Windsor Road, Notch Road and Gulf Road. Stafford Hill WMA is a set of unconnected parcels across the east-central portion of Cheshire. Of this WMAs total 1,400 acres, 882 acres are within Cheshire. Along with the biological diversity, visitors can enjoy stunning views throughout the property, including a spectacular look at Mount Greylock from the top of Stafford Hill. IS THERE WHERE THE MEMORIAL IS? There are three parking areas on Stafford Hill Road in Cheshire—one on the northern parcel and two on the southern parcel, and there is a town pull-off on Wells Road on the western parcel. A small portion of Savoy WMA is found at the Cheshire/Windsor/Savoy border, but there is no parking in Cheshire to access this property.

Table 16 State- and Federally owned Lands in Cheshire (all open for public use)

Site Name	Owner	Activities	Acres in Cheshire
Appalachian Trail Corridor	National Park Service	Footpath only	310
Ashuwillticook Rail Trail	DCR Div. of State Parks and Rec.	All abilities biking, walking, wildlife viewing, snowshoeing, x-country ski	84
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	No trails; hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing	2,540
Cheshire Reservoir Boat Launch & Island	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Fishing, boating, wildlife viewing	8
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR Div. of State Parks and Rec.	Hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, hunting, wilderness camping, snowshoeing, x-country ski, snowmobiling, educational facility, seasonal summit view tower/lodging/food service	1,577
Savoy WMA	Department of Fish and Game	No trails; hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing	15
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	No trails; hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing	882
Total			5,416

Source: BRPC and Assessor Data 2023.

Municipal Lands

A significant amount of land in Cheshire is under municipal ownership, with the towns of Cheshire and Adams and the Regional School District being the owners of these lands. In general, most water supply protection and municipal conservation and recreational lands are protected under Massachusetts Article 97 if they were acquired with conservation and/or recreation in mind. The Towns of Cheshire and Adams own an additional 921 acres protected as part of water supply watershed protection. Article 97 expressly states that Massachusetts citizens have a Right to a Clean Environment. This authorizes local and the state governments to utilize their traditional Police Powers (public health, safety, welfare and morals) to protect and promote the environment in general. Article 97 requires a two-thirds roll call vote of each house of the state legislature in order to dispose of or change the use of certain local, county or state lands taken or acquired for natural resources purposes, which is broadly defined. Watershed protection lands are not open to public recreation, but open spaces surrounding the middle/high school are open to public use if they are not being used by sports teams or other school activities.

Table 17 Municipally Owned Open Space Lands in Cheshire

Name of property	Ownership	Activities	Total Acres
Bassett Reservoir Lands	Town of Adams	None - drinking water protection	51
Town of Cheshire Lands*	Town of Cheshire	Mixed - see Table 18 for details	910
Hoosac Valley Middle & High School	Adams Cheshire Reg. School District	School lawn, athletic fields, running track	56
Total			1,017

*Detailed list of Town of Cheshire open space & recreation lands in Table 18.

Source: BRPC and Assessor Data 2023.

The Town of Cheshire owns relatively few open space lands, and the majority of these acres are for water supply protection, making them unsuitable for development of outdoor recreation. The main Town-owned property that offers outdoor recreation is the Community House, which still hosts the playing fields and playground inherited from the site's former use as an elementary school. While the open space lands owned by the Town of Cheshire and listed in Table 18 are currently considered somewhat protected from development, none have formal deed restrictions prohibiting their sale or their development. This includes cemeteries, that are unlikely to change in use. Therefore, these lands cannot formally be considered as permanently protected open space. However, if these lands were to be considered for sale or a change of use it would likely require a vote of Town Meeting, and Cheshire residents have traditionally favored preservation of lands that provide historic, natural or recreational value. While Hoosac Middle and High School is currently active, the future student population could conceivably fall below a level that is economically sustainable, and therefore, the school is being considered as having a Low level of protection. Town-owned cemeteries are valued historic resources to the Town, and although they have no formal protection, it is very unlikely that residents at Cheshire Town Meeting would approve the removal of graves for development. Most conservation lands owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are protected under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, and to remove protection status of these lands for development would require an act of the state legislature. Although such a scenario could occur, the action would undoubtedly be contentious.

Table 18 Town of Cheshire Municipal Conservation & Recreation Land

Site Name	Ownership / Management	Current Uses	Acres	Condition	Rec. Potential	Public Access	Level of Protection	Grants Used if Any to Acquire or Improve	Zoning
Cheshire Cemetery	Town of Cheshire	Graveyard, history, quiet solitude	18	Good	None	Yes	Limited	None	A-R, R-1
Cheshire Community House	Town of Cheshire	Town Offices/Meeting space, Baseball, Softball, and Football playing fields, playground, basketball court, picnicking, community gardens, ice skating and Festival of Trees in winter.	11	Good	Good- Additional Field improvements, community gardens, Appalachian and Ashuwillticook trail parking	Yes	Limited	None	R-1
Cheshire Water Co. Watershed Lands	Town of Cheshire	Water Supply Protection	870	Unimproved	Good-Hiking Trails, Wildlife viewing.	Yes	Perpetuity	None	A-R
Farnams Crossing	Town of Cheshire	Boat launch, shoreline recreation, restrooms, fishing pier	1	Good	Good-Access to Cheshire Reservoir North and South Basin, Fishing, Picnicing, Parking, Ashuwillticook Rail Trail access	Yes	High	None	B
Cemetery off Wells Road	Town of Cheshire	Graveyard, history, quiet solitude	1	Good	None	Yes	Limited	None	A-R
Stream Bank between 116 and Wells Road	Town of Cheshire	None	7	Unimproved	Low	No	None	None	A-R
Rt 8 / Wells Cemetery	Town of Cheshire	Graveyard, history, quiet solitude	1	Good	None	Yes	Limited	None	B
Stafford Memorial Tower	Town of Cheshire	History, picnicking	1.5	Fair	High- Picnic Tables, Historical Placards	Yes	Perpetuity	None	A-R
Total			910						

Source: BRPC and Assessor Data 2023.

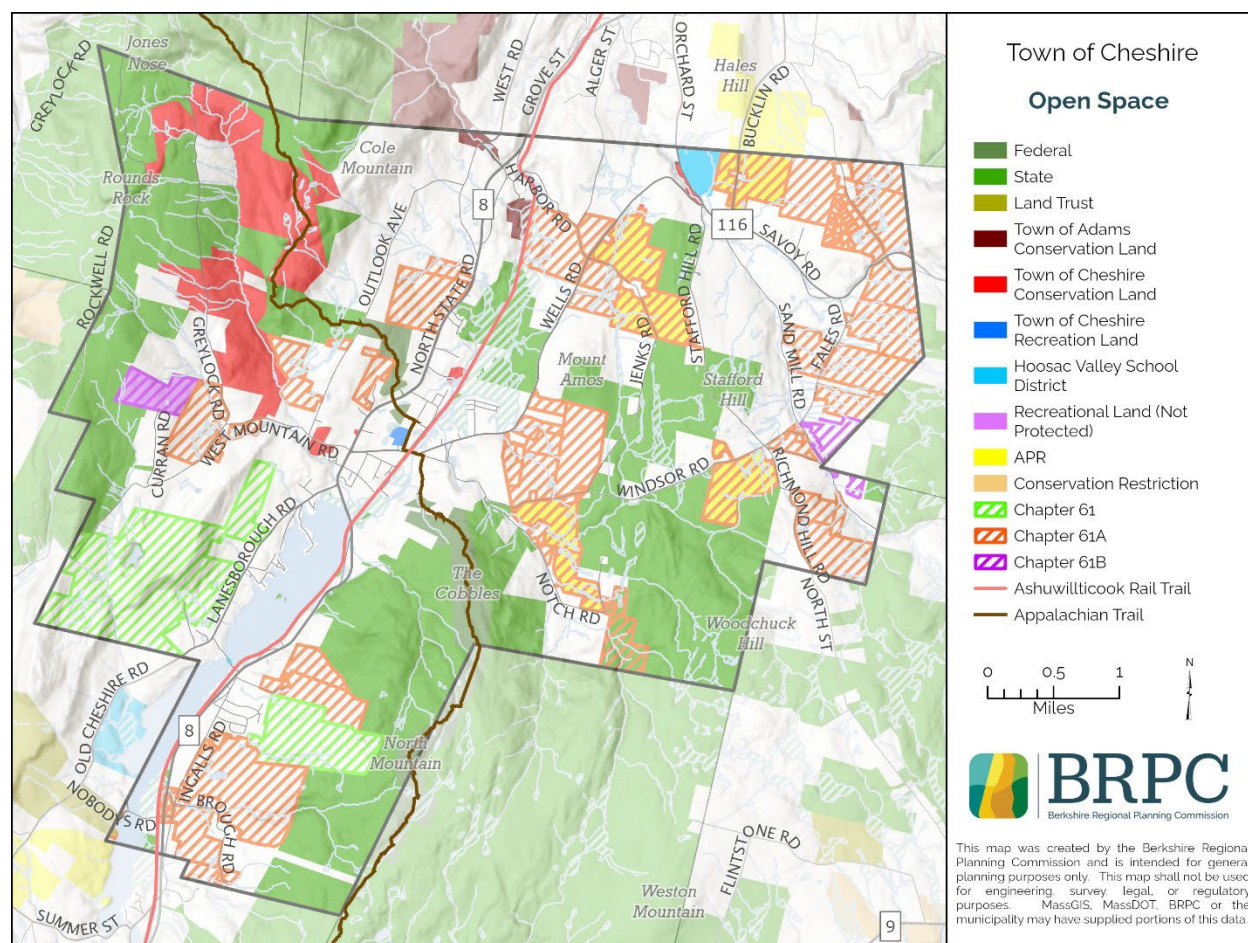
Land Trusts

There are no land trusts or other non-profit conservation organizations that own land in Cheshire, but the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, the regional Berkshire land trust, holds a CR on six acres of the Fletcher Farm. These lands are an extension of the Fletcher Farm that is largely located in Lanesborough.

Historic and Cultural Properties and Resources

As noted in Section 4 of this Plan, Cheshire is endowed with several areas of historic and cultural importance. The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) maintains a database of properties listed as historic sites. Currently there are 186 sites listed in the town as registered with the MHC. Appendix D features a table of MHC registered properties.

Figure 17 Open Space Lands of Particular Interest



Section 6:

Community Vision

6A. Description of Process

The process of updating the Cheshire OSRP began in the Autumn of 2023. Meetings with the OSRP Committee were held on 9/6/2023, 11/8/2023, 1/10/2024, 2/7/2024, 3/20/2024, 7/10/2024, 8/14/2024, 9/18/2024, 10/2/2024, 11/6/2024, 12/4/2024.

The public survey was available on SurveyMonkey from March 1, 2024 until June 17, 2024, paper copies were available in the Community House (Town Hall), Cheshire Library, and Council Aging. A presentation was made at a Council on Aging luncheon on 3/5/2024 regarding the survey as seniors were assisted with completing the online survey. The survey was also publicized at the town-wide Clean Up Day and at the Town Meeting, June 10. A public forum was held at the Community House Facility on 10/9/2024 to review the survey results and proposed Goals and Actions of the 2025 Cheshire Open Space Plan. Finally a draft plan of the OSRP was made available for public comment on the town's website during the month of December, 2024.

6B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

Cheshire residents value the town's water resources highly. They recognize the importance of Cheshire Reservoir as a town and tourism resource. The first survey question asked, "What is the most important resource to be conserved in Cheshire", 67 of the 121 responses mention the reservoir. Many residents stated that they enjoy hiking and walking (73%) in the town and that they use the Ashuwillticook Rail trail very frequently. Many residents have expressed a desire to enhance recreational offerings for youth in the town.

Large portions of Cheshire are owned by the State of Massachusetts (Mount Greylock State Reservation, Chalet Wildlife Management Area, Stafford Hill Wildlife Management area, Ashuwillticook Rail Trail). Because a large percentage of the remaining land in Cheshire is privately owned, it is important to enlist and educate private citizens in land and natural resource conservation efforts. Many residents have stated through the public survey and during public forums that they would like to learn more about the world around them and what part they can play in preserving the town's natural communities. Many property owners state that they are interested in learning how to become better stewards of their land. It is important that these landowners are given the tools to succeed. Partnering with environmental conservation organizations and state agencies will be key in providing these educational tools.

Although residents are surrounded by nature, properties formally open for public recreation are somewhat limited and many are not well known. New outdoor recreational facilities must be designed for long-term sustainability and protection of natural resources. Publicizing Cheshire's public outdoor spaces, including newly developed and updated sites, can help to facilitate residents' use of these properties. The Berkshire's Outside website will help to inform local efforts to increase awareness of open space resources.

Considering public input provided through the public survey and the October 2024 public forum, the Open Space and Recreation committee developed goals for the protection of natural resources and enhancement of recreational opportunities. The Actions that have been developed during the planning process have been categorized under these overarching Goals. More than 35 actions have been identified.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

7A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

As noted in *An Assessment of the Forest Resources of Massachusetts* (2010), the forests of the Berkshire Highlands region, in which Cheshire is located, are among of the highest priority areas in the state for hosting intact forest blocks and providing timber products. The forests here “provide the full suite of ecosystem services. The top watersheds are comprised of forestland that provides basic supporting ecosystem services such as protection of water quality, prevention of soil erosion, protection of biodiversity and wildlife habitat, while also providing wood for local markets. This forestland also provides opportunities for recreational, spiritual, and aesthetic experiences, a forest environment in which people of all ages can connect with nature and the outdoors.”⁷

The Town’s forest cover, mixed with the rugged terrain, provide residents with a feeling that they are living in a rural and wild place. It is a main reason why they live or vacation here. Forests also provide habitat for wildlife, including rare species that reside in or travel through the area. These forests may also be harboring rare species that have never been documented or have not been documented for decades. However, most of the land in Cheshire is privately owned, including large camp properties, and very little is permanently protected open space, particularly in the Town’s interior.

Given the Town’s limited resources, it may be most productive to partner with state agencies and focus protection measures in areas where rare species are known to exist or where they can reasonably be expected to exist. The Town should actively work with the DCR, DFW and conservation organizations to expand conservation land around their existing properties.

The Town should encourage developers to minimize intrusions into forest lands and to limit the amount of clearing that occurs for roads, buildings, and driveways. Low Impact Development techniques, which seek to maintain existing topography and vegetation, should be promoted for all development and possibly be required for larger developments needing special permits. Amending zoning bylaws can be undertaken to achieve these goals. Reducing openings in the forest may also aid in limiting the introduction or spread of some invasive species.

Adopting the Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act will provide the Town with a land use tool to guide development along the ridgelines and slopes of Cheshire’s higher elevations. This tool protects specific water resources of the town as well as views of the surrounding mountains and rural character. The act enables the town to regulate such things as grading and tree removal to reduce the impact of runoff on surface waters. The Scenic Mountain Act is applied to predefined areas as selected by the town. At a minimum or default level, the act applies to areas over 1,800 feet in elevation. However, the town can tailor this to select the appropriate areas and elevation as it relates to watershed protection for the town. At least 10 towns in Berkshire County have adopted this Act, including the nearby town of Dalton.

It is expected that the majority of the land in Cheshire will remain in private ownership in the near future. If the forests, fields and wetland resources are to be protected for future

⁷ de la Cretaz, et al, 2010.

generations, it is key that owners understand how to become good stewards of these precious resources.

7B. Summary of Community's Needs

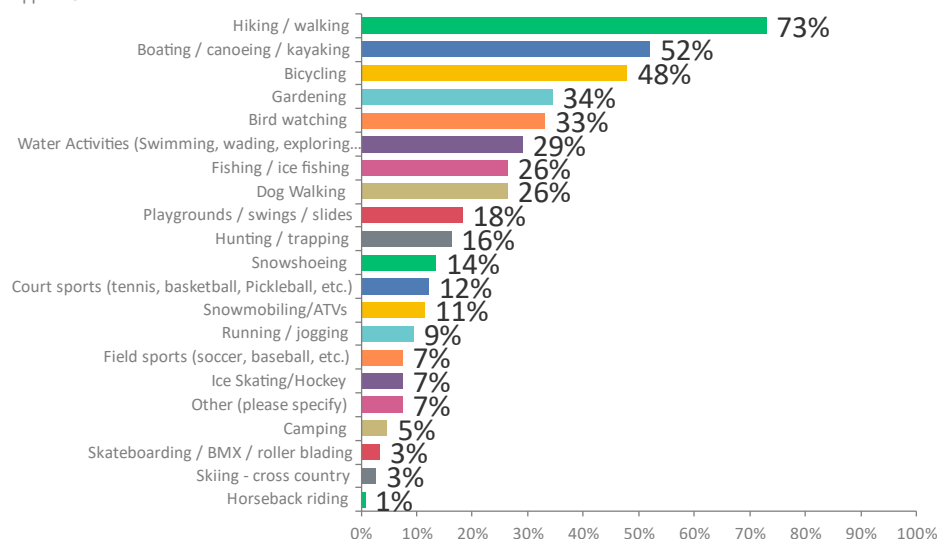
In the spring of 2024, the Cheshire Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee conducted an Open Space and Recreation Survey as part of the process of updating its Open Space and Recreation plan. The survey was open from March 1 until June 17, 2024. A total of 148 total responses were received, the majority through the SurveyMonkey website, however paper copies of the survey were available for residents at the Town Hall, Council on Aging, and at the town Library. Paper copies were entered into the SurveyMonkey after June 17th. The survey was advertised on the town's website, through email blasts, and in the Cheshire Chatter, a monthly newsletter published by the Council on Aging.

The second question asked residents to choose up to 5 activities they enjoy doing in Cheshire. Hiking and walking was the overwhelming preference with 73% of the 148 respondents. Boating/canoeing/kayaking was second with 52%. Bicycling, gardening, and bird watching rounded out the top 5 responses with 48%, 34%, and 33% respectively. The full results are shown in Figure 17.

Figure 18 Cheshire Survey Results- Favorite Outdoor Activities

Q2: Choose up to five (5) activities that you enjoy doing in Cheshire.

Answered: 148 Skipped: 0



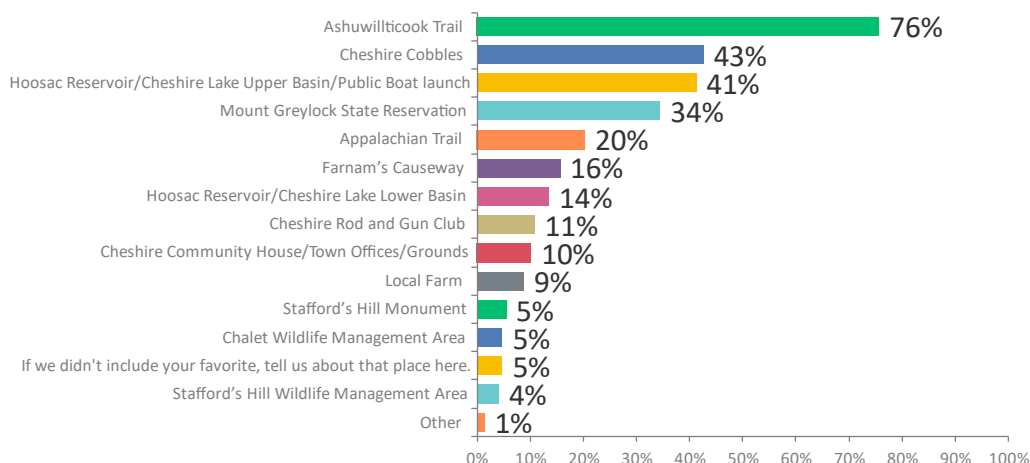
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The third question asked about residents' three favorite outdoor sites in the town. Respondents chose the Ashuwillticook Trail (76%), Cheshire Cobbles (43%), Cheshire Lake/Hoosac Reservoir (41%), Mount Greylock State Reservation (34%), and the Appalachian Trail (20%) as the top 5 choices. Figure 18 shows the results of this question.

Figure 19 Cheshire Survey Results- Favorite Sites to Visit

Q3: What are your three favorite places to visit in Cheshire?

Answered: 148 Skipped: 0



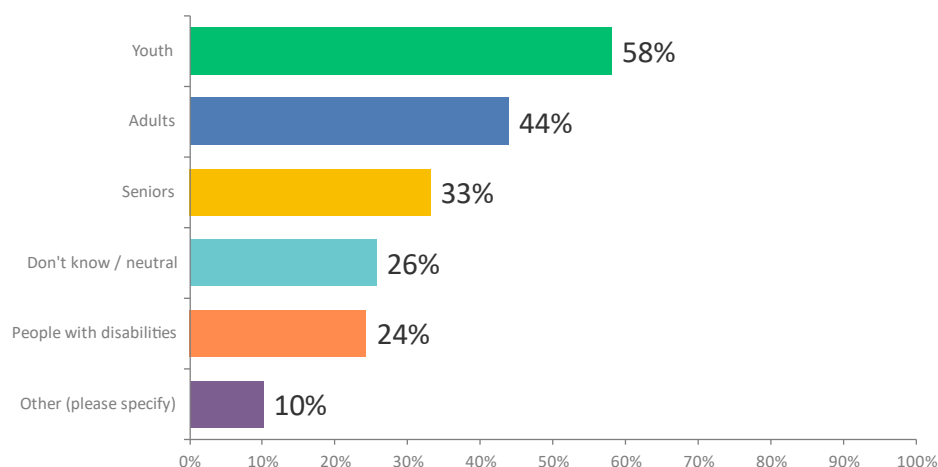
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Question 5 of the survey asked about groups that need additional recreational opportunities in the town. Respondents wanted to see more offerings for youth (58%), adults (44%), and seniors (33%). Figure 19 shows the results of this question.

Figure 20 Cheshire Survey Results- Recreation Needs

Q5: Does Cheshire need more recreational opportunities for: (check all that apply)

Answered: 148 Skipped: 0



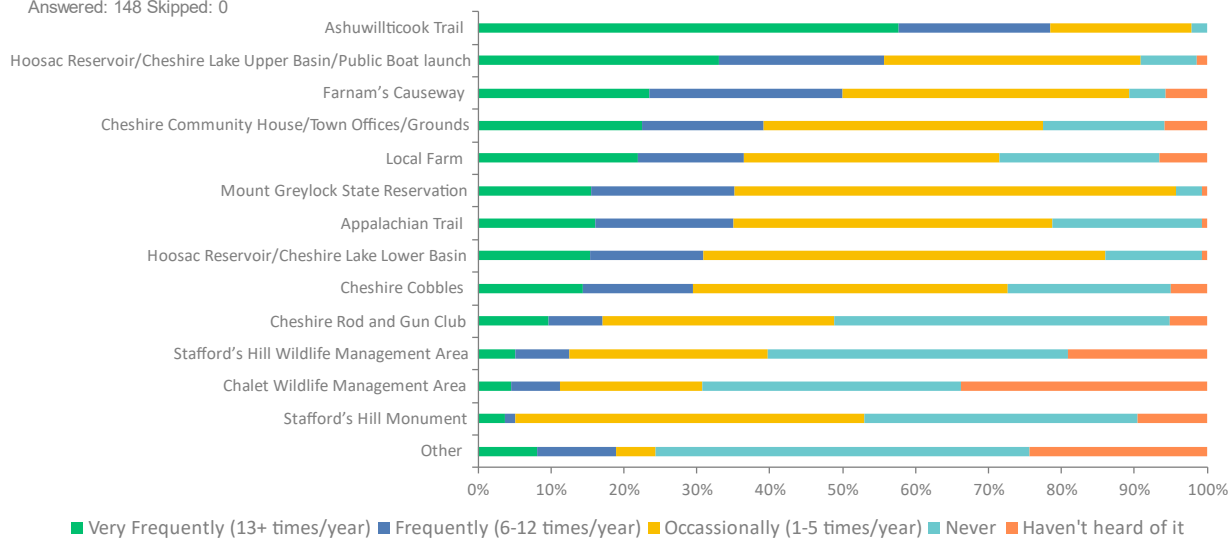
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Respondents were asked about how often they utilize outdoor recreation sites in the town in question 6. The most frequently used sites were the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, Cheshire Reservoir, Farnam's Causway, the Cheshire Community House, and local farms as the top 5 choices. The results of this question are presented in Figure 20.

Figure 21 Cheshire Survey Results- Frequency of Visits to

**Q6: In a typical year, how often do you visit the following locations in Cheshire?
Please tell us which is your favorite.**

Answered: 148 Skipped: 0



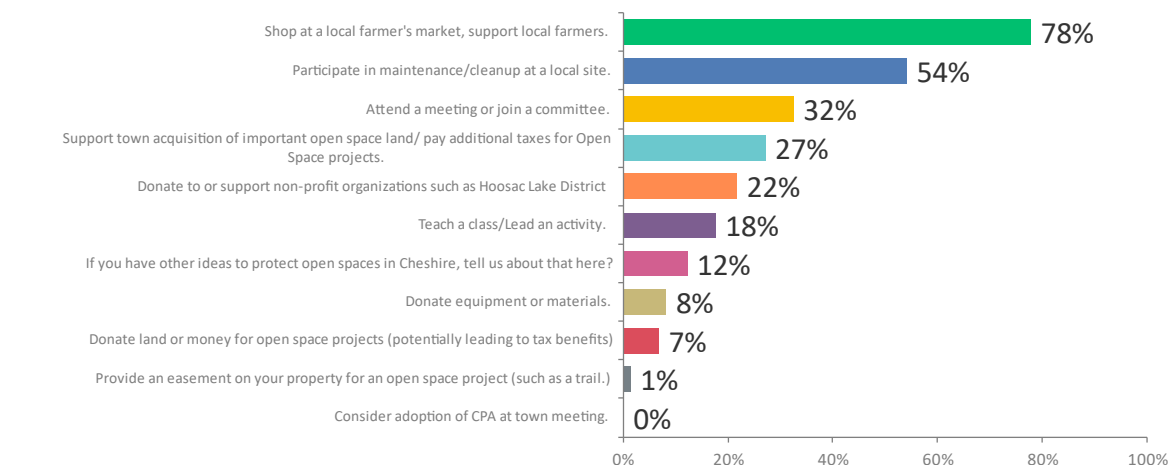
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Question 7 asked residents activities that they would be willing to participate in to improve open space and recreation in Cheshire. Respondents stated that they would like to shop at a local farmers market, participate in maintenance/cleanup days at local sites, and attendance of meetings and committees were the top three choices. Figure 21 shows the results of this question.

Figure 22 Cheshire Survey Results- Volunteer Preferences

Q7: Which of the following are activities you would be willing to participate in to improve Open Space/Recreation in Cheshire?

Answered: 148 Skipped: 0



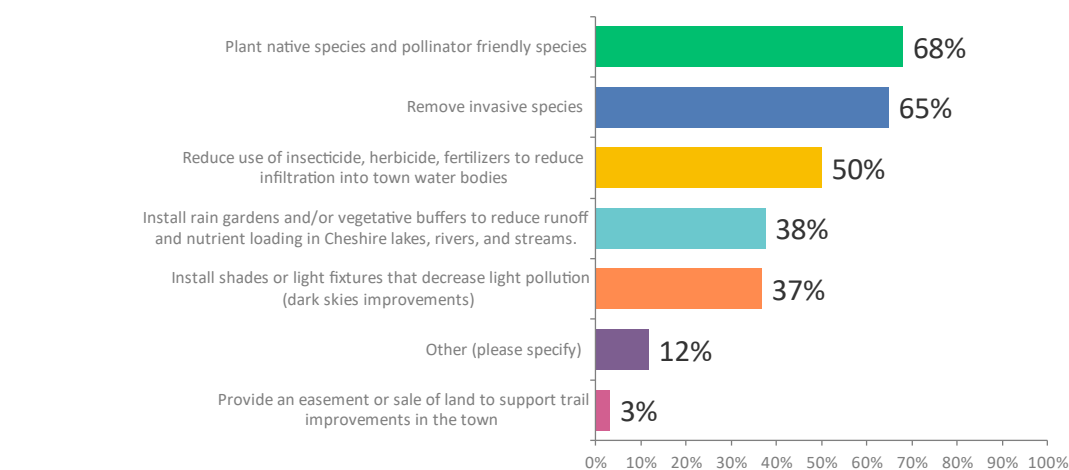
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Residents were also asked about conservation practices that they would be willing to institute on their own properties (Question 8.) The results of this question are shown in Figure 22.

Figure 23 Cheshire Survey Results- Conservation Preferences

Q8: Which of the following conservation practices would you be willing to implement on your own property?

Answered: 128 Skipped: 20



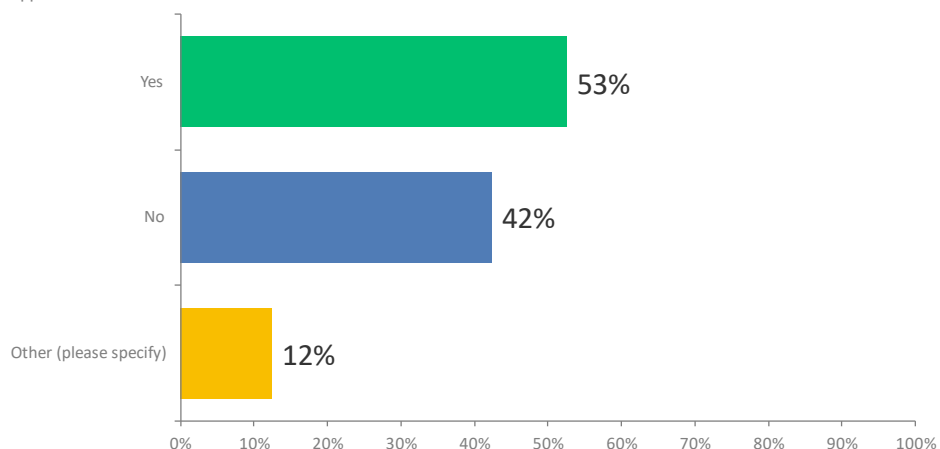
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Question 10 asked respondents to weigh in on the installation of adult/senior exercise equipment at the Community House. A majority of respondents said that would use this equipment if it was installed. Figure 23 shows the results of this question.

Figure 24 Cheshire Survey Results- Level of Interest in Outdoor Exercise Equipment

Q10: Would you use adult/senior exercise equipment (similar to Housatonic Commons or Lee's Outdoor fitness court) if it was installed at the Cheshire Community House (Cheshire Elementary)?

Answered: 137 Skipped: 11



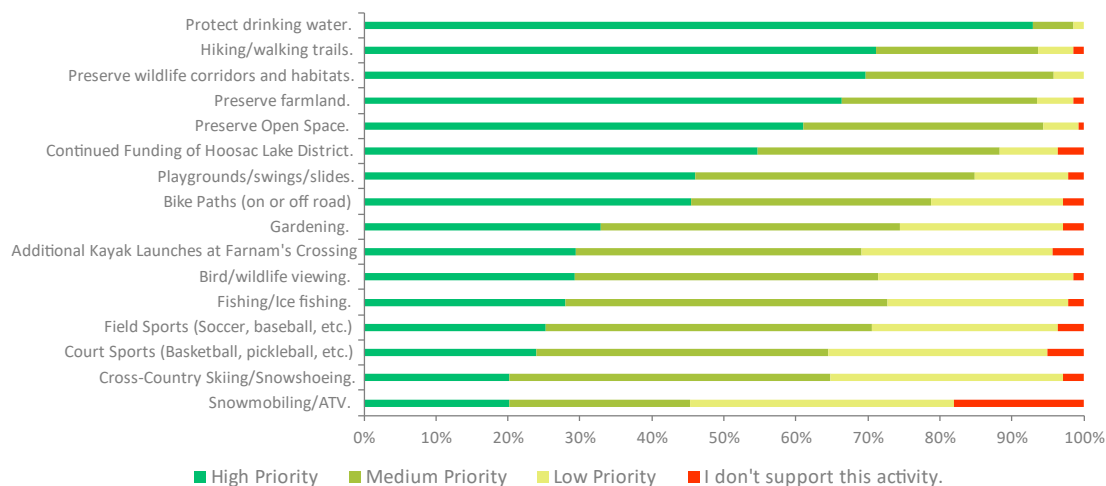
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When asked to rate the highest priority categories for using town funds to improve and protect open spaces in the town, the respondents stated that protecting drinking water, maintaining and improving hiking/walking trails, preserving wildlife corridors and habitats, and preserving farmland and open space were the top 5 priorities. This information is presented in Figure 24.

Figure 25 Cheshire Survey Results- Preferences for Outdoor Exercise Equipment

Q12: Rate the following categories for town use of open space and recreation funds from high to low priority?

Answered: 143 Skipped: 5



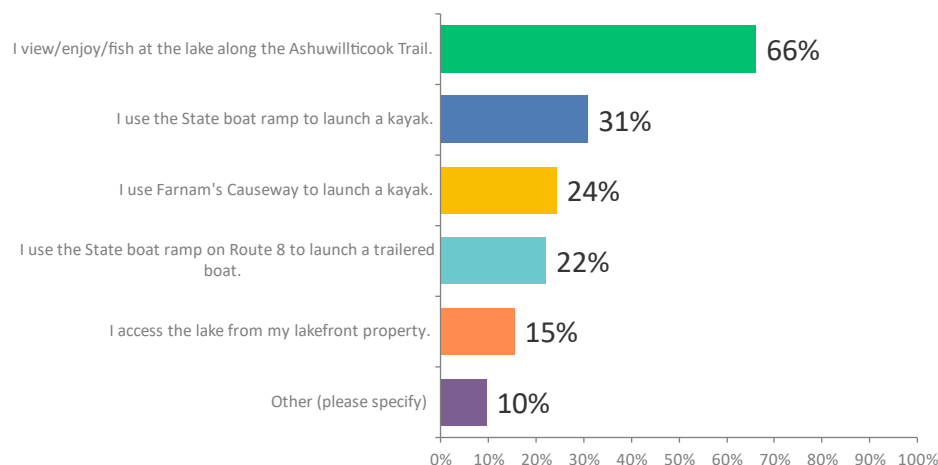
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Several questions in the survey asked specifically about the Cheshire Reservoir.. Question 14 asked how residents accessed the lake (see Figure 25.)

Figure 26 Cheshire Survey Results- Hoosac Reservoir Access

Q14: How do you access Hoosac Reservoir/Cheshire Lake? (Please select all that apply)

Answered: 136 Skipped: 12



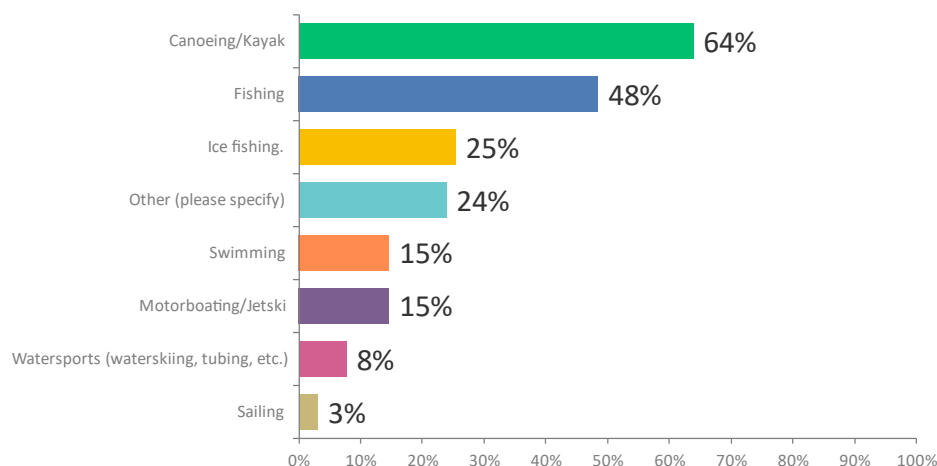
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Question 15 asked about preferred activities at the lake. Residents said they enjoy canoeing/kayaking, fishing, and ice fishing at the lake. For more information see Figure 26.

Figure 27 Cheshire Survey Results- Favorite Lake Activities

Q15: What activities do you enjoy on the lake? (please check all that apply)

Answered: 130 Skipped: 18



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To understand who had completed the survey, several questions asked respondents a series of demographic questions. These include residency status and how they obtain information about open space issues in the town. Figures 27 and 28 show the results of these questions. Question 17 asked respondents about their household composition by age. The question was answered by 139 respondents and skipped by 9 respondents. Extrapolation of this data indicates that the survey respondents represented more than 400 Cheshire residents. Table 19 shows an age breakdown of survey respondents' households. Almost 1 in 3 respondents lived in a household with a person 60 years or older, while 20% were youth under the age of 19.

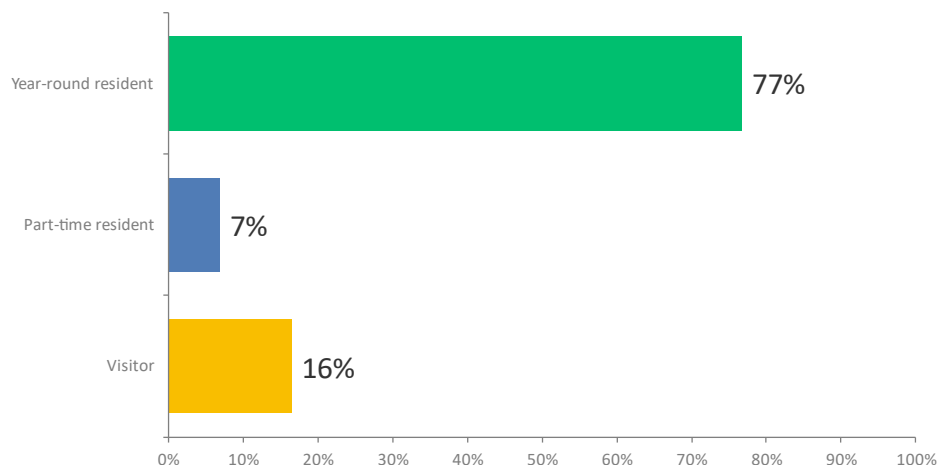
Table 19: Age of household members represented by survey respondents

Under 10	48
10-19	40
20-29	45
30-39	41
40-49	41
50-59	65
60-69	60
70+	73
Total	413

Figure 28 Cheshire Survey Results- Residency Status

Q16: Are you a yearround resident, parttime resident, or visitor to Cheshire?

Answered: 146 Skipped: 2

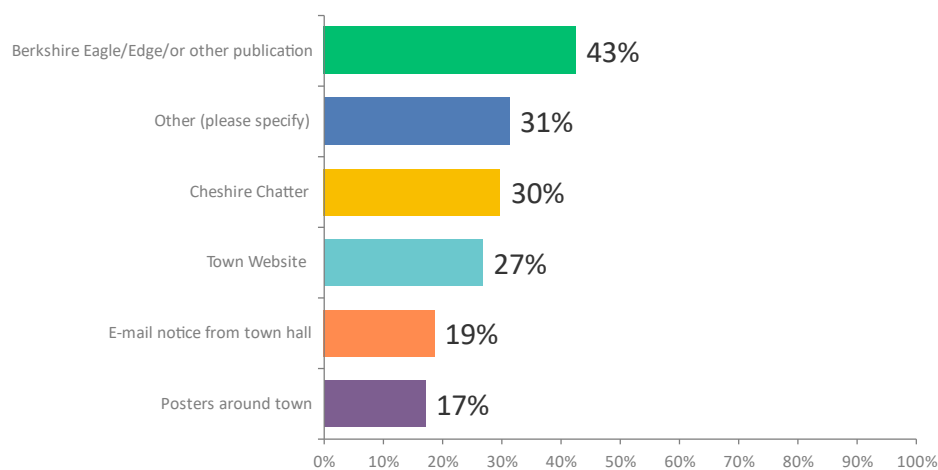


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Figure 29 Cheshire Survey Results- Information Sources

Q18: How do you get information about open space issues in Cheshire?

Answered: 134 Skipped: 14



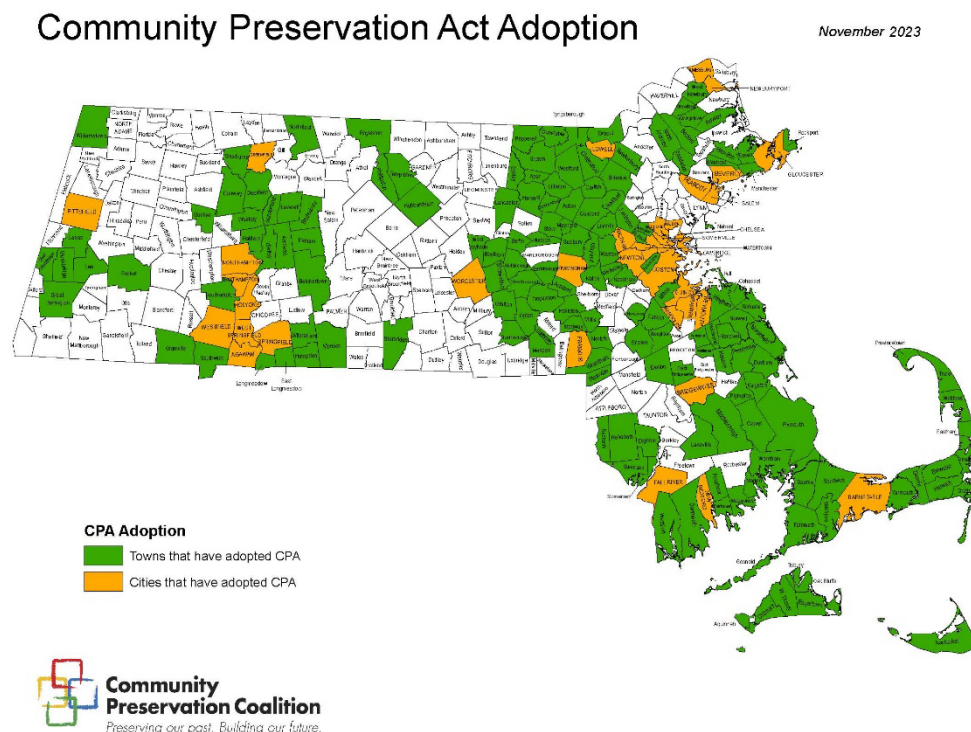
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7C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

Cheshire has limited tax money to protect open space through land acquisition or to create additional recreational facilities. Additional funds for open space and cultural resource protection

could be obtained if the town were to pass the Community Preservation Act. The preservation of existing unprotected open space in Cheshire depends on citizens organizing or using the services of existing land trusts and additional volunteer organizations for information and opportunities. See Figure 29 for a map of communities in Massachusetts that have passed the Community Preservation Act.

Figure 30 Map of Community Preservation Communities



Effective lines of communication among the State, Town, and citizens are needed if any of the open space and recreation goals are to be achieved. The committee members and townspeople expressed concerns about the responsiveness of state entities regarding Cheshire Reservoir, the maintenance of the spill way, and state boat ramp.

Within Cheshire there are conflicting opinions on the most important issues of economic growth. One view holds that additional regulations or additional protection of open space will hurt the financial situation of the town. Another view is interested in exploring the economic benefits of open space and the cost of residential and/or commercial growth as it relates to environmental damage and strained infrastructure. Long-term planning will be difficult if cooperation and collaboration does not take place. Coordination between town agencies is needed to prevent additional development and the installation of septic systems within sensitive areas such as around Cheshire Reservoir and wetland areas.

Special groups in the town include seniors and youth constituencies. The survey had more responses from older Cheshire residents (See Table 19) Outreach efforts were made to Seniors through attendance of a Council on Aging luncheon with special assistance given to complete the survey. While youth were not able to complete the survey, the OSRP process was advertised to students at the Hoosac Valley Career Fair in the Spring of 2024. Survey results indicated that residents would be interested in adult exercise equipment installed at the Cheshire Community

House. With extensive youth programming and proximity to the Council on Aging facility, this would enable all ages to utilize this central recreational facility.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023

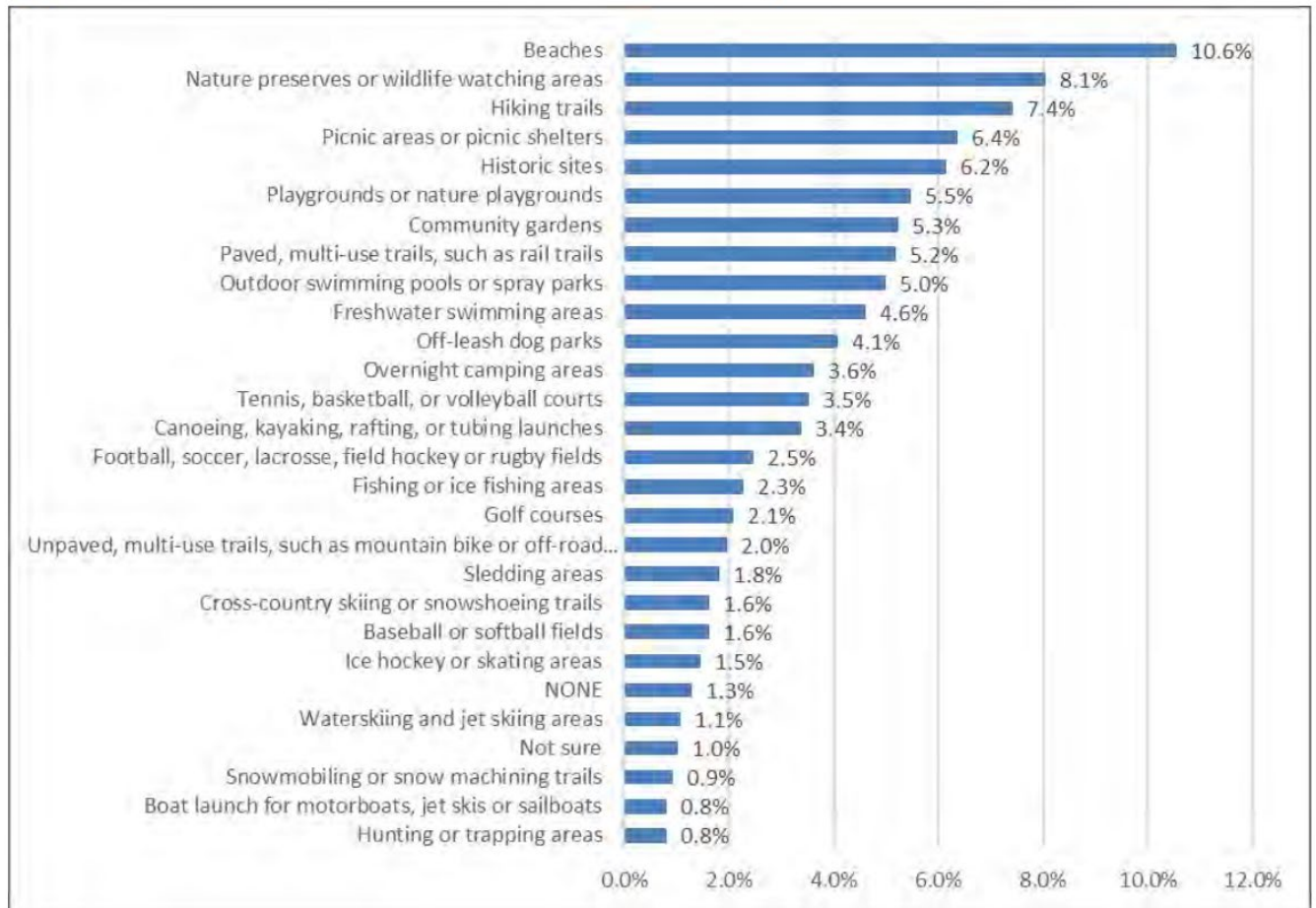
The Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023 (SCORP) provides Massachusetts residents with a framework to guide decision making in the coming five years. The plan is created by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA.) The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) authorized by the Land and Water Act, 1965 Section 6 (d) requires each state to analyze outdoor recreational opportunities. The LWCF Grant Program requires an updated Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every 5 years. The plan was developed using surveys of both municipalities and residents to determine areas of need and improvement. Figures show the results of survey work.

- EEA Survey results from 4,895 responses from recreation users indicate that outdoor recreation is extremely important to them (95.1%)
 - Most popular activities included (in order of preference) hiking, walking or jogging, swimming at the beach, lake, or river, boating (canoe or kayak), birding or wildlife viewing, dog walking, and off-road cycling, visiting historic sites, on-road bicycling, and fishing.
 - 62% of respondents said that use of parks and conservation areas increased during the pandemic.
- EEA Survey results from Municipal Recreation Providers indicated that the following recreational activities have been increasing in the last 5-10 years.
 - Top results were (in order of preference) pickleball, walking or jogging, hiking, off-road bicycling, dog walking, mountain biking, birding/wildlife viewing, boating (canoe or kayak), and community gardening.
 - Decreases in popularity were seen in the following activities: baseball/softball, hunting/trapping, tennis, and football.
- Online Survey of households in the state, conducted by ERG.
 - 80% of respondents said that outdoor recreation was important to them.
 - Families with children are more likely to identify outdoor recreation as extremely important.
 - Walking, visiting the beach, and hiking were the top three favorite activities.
 - Walking and running were the most frequent activities.
 - 26% of respondents stated that they take advantage of outdoor areas and facilities.
 - 46% of respondents stated that they lived within 5 miles of a recreational facility.
 - When asked what outdoor recreational facilities they would like to see more of, respondents stated that they would like Beaches (10.6%), nature preserves or wildlife watching areas (8.1%), and hiking trails (7.4%)

The 2023 SCORP defines the following goals and objectives, defined by survey results.

1. Improve access to beaches and other water-based recreation facilities
2. Support Trail Projects
3. Create and Renovate Neighborhood parks, especially to benefit underserved communities.
 - a. All respondents said that they would like to see additional picnic facilities
 - b. African American and Hispanic respondents were more likely to live five to ten miles from the outdoor recreation facility they use the most.
 - c. African American respondents report visiting their favorite outdoor recreation areas more than once/week, the highest of any group.
4. Create opportunities for underserved populations to enjoy protected natural areas.

Figure 31- Results of SCORP Survey



The results of the Cheshire survey show similar findings to those described in the 2023 SCORP. Residents stated that they use the Ashuwillticook trail and the Hoosic Reservoir extensively. The survey found that the greatest needs in the community was for additional hiking and biking trails, improved access and conditions at the Hoosic Reservoir, additional neighborhood parks and more gathering places for all ages, and additional opportunities for fishing, boating, kayaking, and canoeing.

By aligning town recreation goals with the statewide goals presented in the SCORP, the town increases the likelihood of receiving grant funding to implement those projects.

Resource Management

Cheshire also owns and maintains 3 cemeteries throughout the town. These properties offer a place of quiet reflection and provide a window to the town's past. Like town parks and school grounds, the DPW maintain the grounds of the cemeteries.

Like other rural towns, Cheshire has a few civic-minded people who serve on multiple boards. These dedicated people have little additional time to attend workshops offered for their benefit. Strategies for increasing participation of residents in town government are needed. More volunteers on committees will bring more resources, experiences, and energies to the process of making important decisions.

Agencies and boards have overlapping roles in ownership, management, and maintenance of town land. Handling trail maintenance, dealing with use and/or abuse, and negotiating with landowners for access across private land are just a few of the many situations needing management. Utilizing the managerial skills of regional Land Trust organizations would greatly assist with the task of land management. Private landowners interested in protecting open space must be willing to assist the town financially in order to obtain the services of the Land Trusts.

Figure 31- State Boat Ramp at Hoosic Reservoir



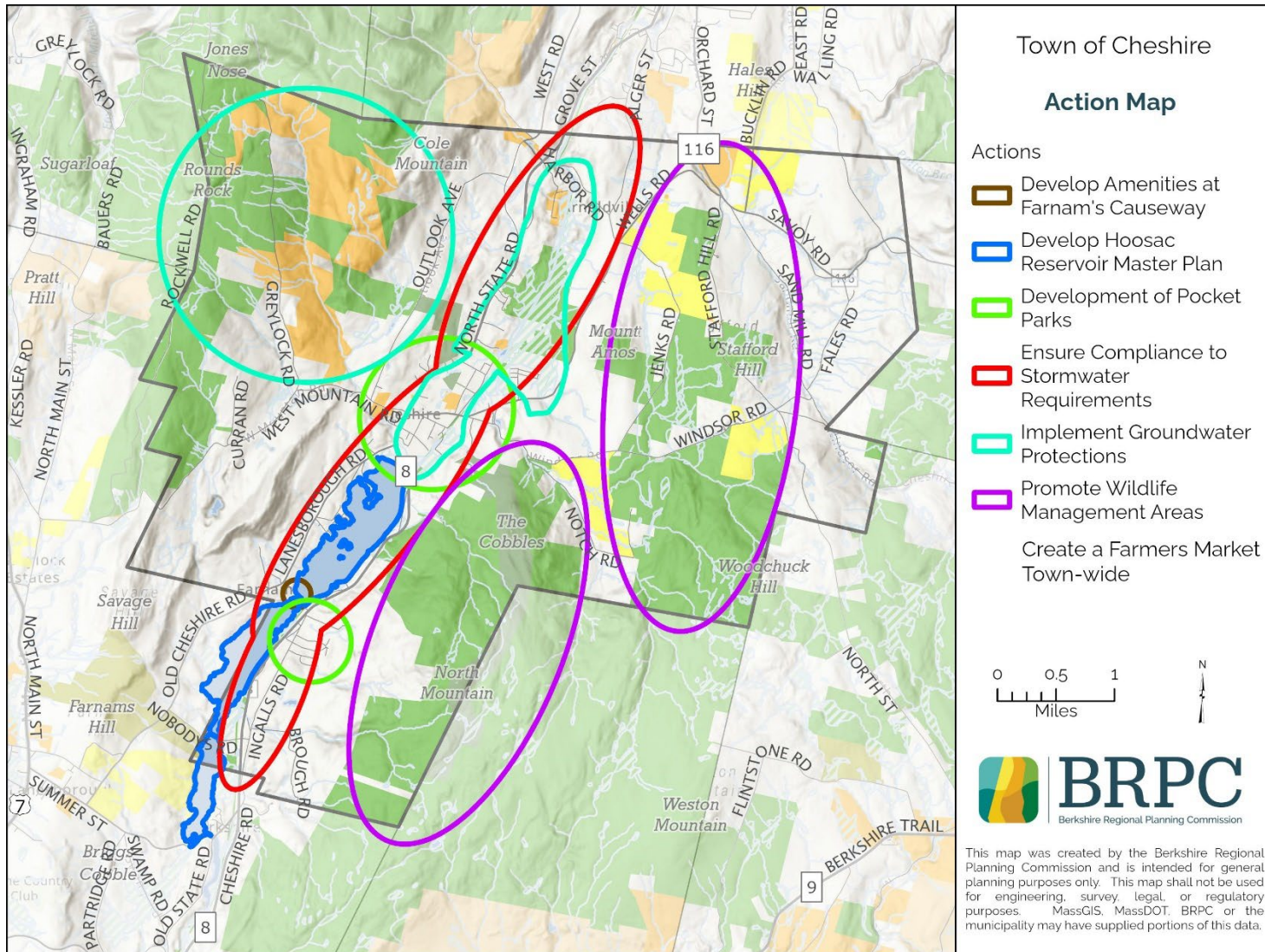
Section 8: Goals and Actions

In developing goals and actions for this OSRP, the Cheshire Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee revisited the outdated OSRP, as well as considered recommendations that emerged from the 2017 Master Plan AND 2023 MVP/HM Plan. They used community input from the OSRP Survey, public forum, and stakeholder meetings to develop Goals and Actions for the plan.

Goals and objectives of the plan are as follows:

- 1. Enhance parks facilities throughout the town.**
 - a. Improve recreation offerings in the town for all residents.**
- 2. To improve and increase the waterfront recreation opportunities at Hoosac reservoir/Cheshire Lake and the Hoosic River.**
 - a. Develop a comprehensive approach to lake management at Hoosac Reservoir and coordinate activities between local and state efforts.**
 - b. Enhance lake access points at both town and state-owned properties.**
- 3. Create a town Parks and Recreation Committee.**
 - a. Coordinate the implementation of OSRP goals and park projects in the town.**
- 4. To protect and enhance the town's ground water resources.**
 - a. Identify and coordinate protection efforts for the town's groundwater.**
- 5. To protect and enhance the town's surface water resources.**
 - a. Improve water quality of the Hoosic River/Reservoir to enhance both recreation and conservation.**
- 6. Create a Cheshire Farmers Market.**
 - a. Support the viability of agricultural operations while offering town residents access to local agricultural products.**
- 7. Encourage town policies and bylaws that protect open space resources in the town.**
 - a. Educate local citizens on best practices and use town leadership to advocate for policies.**

Figure 32 Cheshire Action Map



Section 9: Seven Year Action Plan

This Seven-Year Action Plan below established goals with associated objectives and actions with help from community input and integrated with other community planning efforts and their associated public processes. Continued Town commitment and citizen support are essential to accomplish these goals. Many of the listed actions reflect priorities and recommendations that have been in development for many years, and some will undoubtedly continue beyond seven years. The Town's ability to implement any of the given objectives is also dependent on the current budget and available funding for a given year.

Figure 33- View of Hoosic Reservoir from Cheshire Cobbles



Table 19 Seven-Year Action Table

Cheshire Open Space and Recreation Seven Year Action Plan							
Task #			Activity	Responsible Party	Time Frame	Funding Source	Cost to the Town
Q.1	Goal	Priority	Enhance parks facilities throughout the town.				
Q.1	Objective		Improve recreation offerings in the town for all residents.				
0.1.1.1	Action	High	Identify additional sites for "pocket parks" or smaller parks in the town in addition to facilities at Cheshire Community House. Potential improvements include: Community Gardens, Exercise Facilities, Courts, Splash Pad, Dog Park, and Skate Park.	Select Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee, Department of Public Works	0-4 years	Community One Stop for Growth, Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC), Mass in Motion Municipal Wellness and Leadership Initiative, Community Preservation Act	\$-\$-\$
0.1.1.2	Action	High	Apply for various state and federal grant programs which provide increased recreation opportunities for additional town sites.	Select Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee, Department of Public Works	Ongoing	Community One Stop for Growth, Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC), Mass in Motion Municipal Wellness and Leadership Initiative, Community Preservation Act	\$
0.1.1.3	Action	Medium	Improve access and parking at Cheshire Cobbles Trailhead (not on Furnace Hill Road- Private Property.)	Select Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee, Department of Public Works	0-2 years	MassTrails, Community Preservation Act	\$-\$-\$
0.1.1.4	Action	Medium	Improve parking and trail access at Town Water District Land off West Mountain Road.	Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works	0-3 years	MassTrails, Community Preservation Act, Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program,	\$-\$-\$-\$
0.1.1.5		Medium	Promote the Appalachian Trail, Leland Park, Hoosac Reservoir, the Ashwilticook Trail, and Mt. Greylock as recreation destinations in the community.	Parks and Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Community Preservation Act, Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Municipal Partnerships	\$
0.1.1.6	Action	Medium	Identify areas to create ATV trails in the town. Create organization to oversee policing, maintenance, and trail creation.	Select Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee, Department of Public Works	Ongoing	MassTrails Program, OHV Technical Assistance Program- OHV Club Creation	\$-\$-\$-\$
0.1.1.7	Action	Low	Seek private donations and/or partner with non-profits to increase the town's recreation- oriented needs.	Select Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee, Non-profits	Ongoing	Various non-profits, private citizens, health advocacy organizations	\$
0.1.1.8	Action	Low	Work with State agencies and seek grant funding to create a park at the location of the old arch bridge off Route 8, which well may be the oldest such bridge in the Commonwealth.	Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works	4-7 years	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC)	\$-\$
0.1.1.9	Action	Low	Work with Historical Society, Recreation Committee, and other town groups to identify needed improvements and grant sources for Stafford Hill Monument.	Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works	2-7 years	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC), Community Preservation Act, Preservation Projects Fund	\$-\$-\$
Q.2	Goal		To improve and increase the waterfront recreation opportunities at the Hoosac Reservoir and the Hoosac River.				
Q.2	Objective		Develop a comprehensive approach to lake management at Hoosac Reservoir and coordinate activities between local and state efforts.				
Q.2	Objective		Enhance lake access points at both town and state-owned properties.				
0.2.1.1	Action	High	Work cooperatively with the Hoosac Lake Recreation and Preservation District, and Hoosac River Watershed Association to increase funding and study of Hoosac Reservoir to enhance recreation potential and to support efforts for lake restoration and water-quality improvement.	Select Board, Non-Profits, Lakeside property owners, local citizens	Ongoing	Federal 604b Water Quality Management Planning Program, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program, Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program,	\$-\$-\$-\$
0.2.1.2	Action	High	Continue to make improvements such as improved lake access points, handicapped accessibility features, and others at Farnum's Causeway.	Select Board, Conservation Commission	0-3 years	Boating Infrastructure Grant (BiG) Program, Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities, Community Preservation Act	\$-\$-\$-\$-\$
0.2.1.3	Action	High	Identify infestations of common reed, Japanese Knotweed, water chestnut, and honeysuckle to determine areas of greatest efficacy.	Non-Profits, Lakeside Property owners, State of Massachusetts	0-2 years	MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program, Natural Resource Damages Program Restoration Funds	\$-\$-\$
0.2.1.4	Action	High	Support efforts of Hoosac Lake District, State, and other local lake restoration programs and continue the development of a lake master plan to address invasive species in the lake. Continue to develop short and long term goals for lake management.	Select Board, Non-Profits, Lakeside Property owners, State of Massachusetts	0-4 years	Federal 604b Water Quality Management Planning Program, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program, Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program,	\$-\$-\$-\$
0.2.1.5	Action	Medium	Develop a lakefront town recreation facility on the north end of the lake which promotes both water-based and lakefront recreation uses. Install informational kiosk at parking area regarding natural history, ecology, invasive species, natural hazards, and lake health.	Select Board, Non-Profits, Lakeside Property owners, State of Massachusetts	0-4 years	Boating Infrastructure Grant (BiG) Program, Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities, Community Preservation Act	\$-\$-\$-\$
0.2.1.6	Action	Medium	Remove trash cans at State boat ramp to limit dumping of trash at site. Install "carry in, carry out" signage to encourage users to responsibly dispose of trash.	Select Board, State of Massachusetts	0-2 years	Boating Infrastructure Grant (BiG) Program, Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities, Community Preservation Act	\$

0.3	Goal		Create a Town Parks and Recreation Subcommittee				
0.3	Objective		N/A				
0.3.1.1	Action	High	To provide programs and facilities based on community demand and need. Implement goals and actions within the seven-year action table.	Select Board, Parks Committee, Local Volunteers	0-3 years	N/A	\$-\$\$
0.3.1.2	Action	High	To evaluate the committee's efforts on a regular basis.	Local Citizens	Ongoing	N/A	none
0.3.1.3	Action	Medium	To initiate a volunteer membership drive, to increase current town Recreation Committee membership. Create a subcommittee to oversee and advise on the implementation of these Open Space and Recreation goals and actions.	Select Board, Parks Committee, Local Volunteers	0-3 years	N/A	none
0.3.1.4	Action	Medium	To develop committee bylaws, consistent with town needs and policies.	Select Board, Parks Committee, Local Volunteers	0-2 years	N/A	\$
0.3.1.5	Action	Medium	Seek annual funding in the town budget.	Select Board, Parks Committee, Local Citizens	0-2 years	Community Preservation Act	\$
0.4	Goal		To protect and enhance the town's ground water resources.				
0.4	Objective		Identify and coordinate protection efforts for the town's groundwater.				
0.4.1.1	Action	High	To identify existing pollution sources and attempt to remedy, where possible.	Select Board, BRPC, Non-profits	Ongoing	Federal 604b Water Quality Management Planning Program, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program, Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program,	\$-\$\$\$
0.4.1.2	Action	High	To work closely with the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission regarding ground water protection programs and strategies.	Select Board, BRPC, Non-profits	0-3 years	Federal 604b Water Quality Management Planning Program, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program, Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program,	\$-\$\$
0.4.1.3	Action	Medium	To identify aquifer recharge areas, based on the best available information.	Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works	0-3 years	Federal 604b Water Quality Management Planning Program,	\$
0.4.1.4	Action	Medium	To explore potential funding programs which would allow the town to initiate a more detailed hydrogeological study.	Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works, State of Massachusetts	0-2 years	Federal 604b Water Quality Management Planning Program, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program, Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program,	\$
0.4.1.5	Action	Low	To work closely with the Pine Valley Mobile Home Park and Hutchinson Water Company to identify and protect the recharge area and quality of their existing wells.	Private Water Companies, Select Board, Conservation Commission, Local Citizens	4-7 years	Federal 604b Water Quality Management Planning Program, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program, Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program,	\$-\$\$\$
0.5	Goal		To protect and enhance the town's surface water resources.				
0.5	Objective		Improve water quality on the Hoosac River/Hoosac Reservoir to enhance both recreation and conservation.				
0.5.1.1	Action	High	Seek grant funding and coordinate with the state, surrounding communities, and the Cheshire Lake Association to develop an updated lake management plan focused on improving recreation and water quality in the lake	Local Non-Profits, State of Massachusetts, Select Board, Lakeshore Residents	0-3 years	Federal 604b Water Quality Management Planning Program, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program, Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program,	\$-\$\$\$
0.5.1.2	Action	High	Collaborate regionally and coordinate with MassDOT to ensure compliance with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) Permit.	State of Massachusetts, Select Board, Local Residents	Ongoing	Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program, Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program,	\$
0.5.1.3	Action	Medium	To increase public access to the Hoosac River and Hoosac Reservoir, thereby increasing public awareness and interest in the watercourses.	State of Massachusetts, Select Board, Local Residents	Ongoing	Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program, Community Preservation Act	\$-\$\$
0.5.1.4	Action	Medium	To work cooperatively on lake management of the lower basin of Cheshire Reservoir with the Town of Lanesborough.	Select Board, Lanesborough, Non-profits	Ongoing	Federal 604b Water Quality Management Planning Program, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program, Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program,	\$-\$\$
0.5.1.5	Action	Low	Investigate the construction of a sewer system connecting with the Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant to alleviate the introduction of raw sewage into the Hoosac Reservoir	Select Board, Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works, Local Citizens, Pittsfield	4-7 years	Federal 604b Water Quality Management Planning Program, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program, Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program,	\$\$\$

0.6	Goal		Create a Cheshire Farmers Market and Educate Residents about Best Practices.				
0.6	Objective		Support the viability of agricultural operations while offering town residents access to local agricultural products.				
0.6.1.1	Action	High	Identify source of funding to initiate and organize a farmers market in the town.	Select Board, Agriculture Commission	0-2 years	Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program, Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant (RFSI), Massachusetts Food Trust Program, Massachusetts Food Ventures Program	\$
0.6.1.2	Action	High	Solicit farms and producers to staff market.	Local Agriculture Producers, Local Citizens	Ongoing	N/A	\$
0.6.1.3	Action	High	Publicize farmers market to town residents.	Agriculture Commission, Local Farm Advocacy Organizations	Ongoing	Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program, Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant (RFSI)	\$
0.6.1.4	Action	High	Sponsor pollinator garden/soil amending classes and workshops. Encourage property owners to plant native species, eliminate invasive species, and reduce insecticide, herbicide, and fertilizer use to reduce infiltration into town water bodies. Involve children and local schools in these efforts as a recreational activity.	Local Citizens, Local Non-Profits	Ongoing	Community Preservation Act	\$-\$\$
0.7	Goal		Encourage town policies and bylaws that protect open space resources in the town.				
0.7	Objective		Educate local citizens on best practices and use town leadership to advocate for policies.				
0.7.1.1	Action	High	To promote the viability of the local farming industry by encouraging farmer participation in the Farmland Assessment Act (Ch. 61A) and the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Act.	Agriculture Commission, Local Farms	Ongoing	APR Improvement Program, Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRS, Chapter 61 Program	\$-\$\$
0.7.1.2	Action	High	Coordinate with the state to promote less well-known recreation areas such as Stafford Hill WMA (Wildlife Management Area) and Chalet WMA and encourage the state to clear access areas for fire control and suppression.	State of Massachusetts, Select Board, Local Residents	Ongoing	Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Municipal Partnerships	\$
0.7.1.3	Action	Medium	To discourage development along town river and stream corridors through the strict enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act and floodplain zoning.	Select Board, Conservation Commission, Local Citizens	Ongoing	N/A	\$
0.7.1.4	Action	Medium	Evaluate the appropriateness of adopting the Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act to preserve ridgetops and minimize negative impacts on steep slopes. Pursue if appropriate.	Select Board, Conservation Commission, Local Citizens	0-2 years	N/A	\$
0.7.1.5	Action	Low	To guide development to certain areas of town, where a utility base exists; rather than promoting strip development along existing roadways.	Select Board, Conservation Commission, Local Citizens	3-7 years	Landscape Partnership Program	\$

Section 10: Public Comments

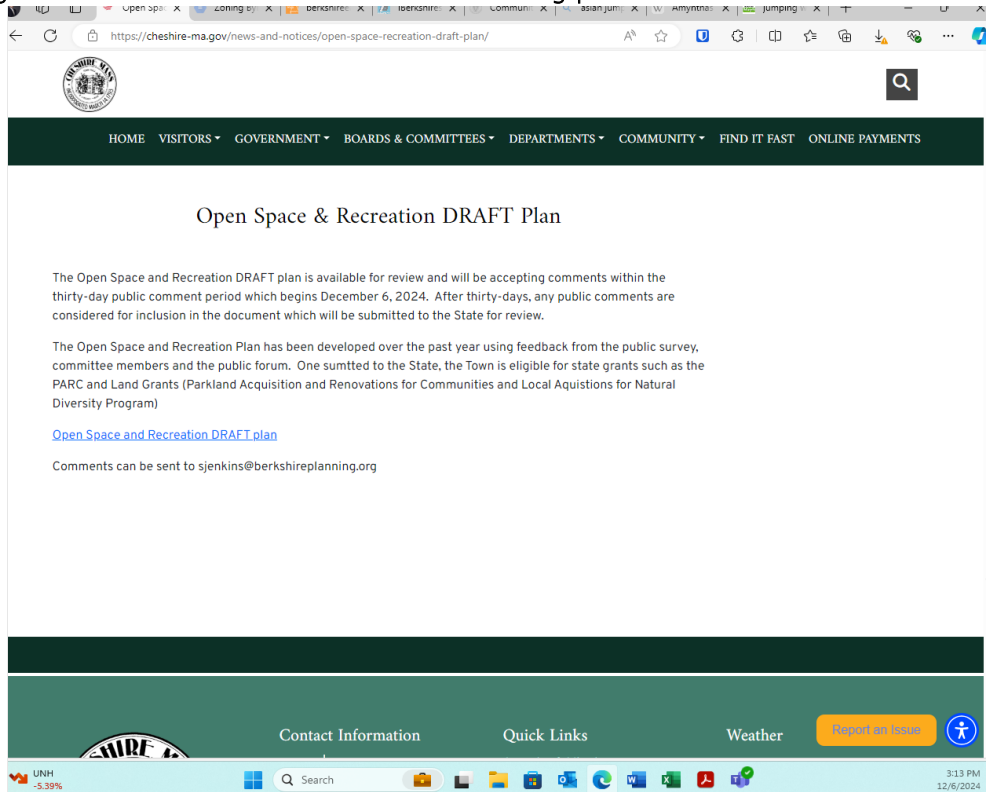
A 30-day public comment period for the plan ran from December 6th 2024 to January 7th, 2025. During this time members of the OSRP Review Committee presented the plan to the community for review and comments. Figure 35 shows the Town website solicitation of comments(see below). Several comments were received from the general public and have been incorporated into this document.

Town staff and OSRP Committee members have publicized the plan with the Town Select Board and Planning Board. The Select Board is scheduled to review a letter of endorsement for the plan during their February 5 meeting and the Planning Board will be taking the letter of endorsement under review at their next meeting.

Figure 34 Survey Flyer at the Ashuwillticook Trail



Figure 35 Screenshot of Town website soliciting public feedback



Section 11:

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Appendices

Appendix A: Paper Copy of Public Survey, Announcements for Survey and Public Forum, and Individual Response Data

Please complete the online survey or Paper Copies available at Cheshire Community House, Library, and Senior Center!

Cheshire

Open Space and Recreation Survey

Survey is open from March 1 until one week after Town Meeting (Monday, June 17, 2024).

Use the following URL or QR Code to get to the survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CheshireOSRP>



Hoosac Reservoir/Cheshire Lake
from the Cobbles
Photo Credit: Liseann Karandisecky



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission



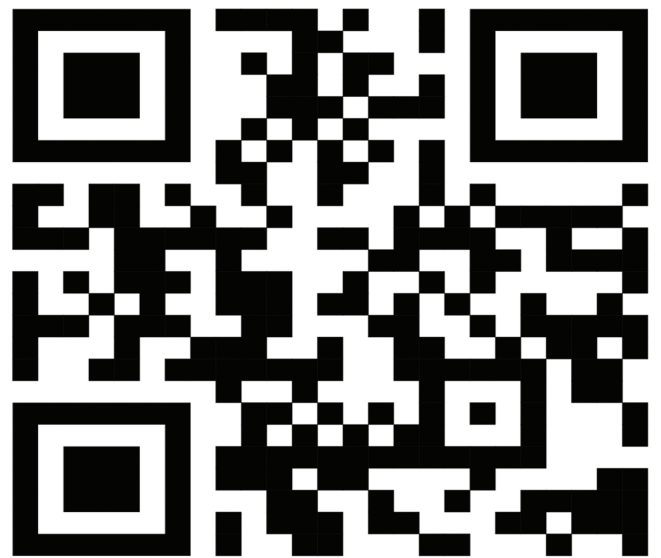
PLEASE COMPLETE THE **ONLINE** SURVEY

PAPER COPIES AVAILABLE AT CHESHIRE COMMUNITY HOUSE,
LIBRARY, AND SENIOR CENTER

CHESHIRE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION SURVEY

SURVEY IS OPEN MARCH 1 - JUNE 17

[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/CHESHIREOSRP](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHESHIREOSRP)



PHOTOS: HOOSAC RESERVOIR/CHESHIRE LAKE
FROM THE COBBLES AND AT SHORE LINE
PHOTO CREDIT : LISEANN KARANDISECKY



BRPC
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

CHESHIRE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION SURVEY

1. Introduction

The Town of Cheshire is developing an Open Space & Recreation Plan and needs your help! Your input will help guide the planning process and determine the future of recreation and open space in the town.

The plan will make Cheshire eligible for state reimbursement grant programs for the improvement of recreation areas and protection of open spaces.

This questionnaire is open to year-round residents, seasonal residents, second homeowners, and visitors. All responses will be confidential.

This questionnaire consists of 19 questions and should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. The survey will be open from March 1st through one week after Town Meeting on June 17, 2024.

The following questions examine interests and opinions regarding the future preservation of open and recreation space in Cheshire. Open space is defined as land that has not been developed for residential, commercial, or industrial uses and includes publicly and privately owned land. Areas with particular interest in conservation and recreation include:

- 1. Land that contributes to the public water supply;**
- 2. Forests, fields, and agricultural lands;**
- 3. Wetlands;**
- 4. Rivers, streams, and lakes;**
- 5. Parks and other recreation lands;**
- 6. Wildlife or animal habitats; and**
- 7. Land that preserves scenic views or town character.**

Please answer all of the following questions. Thank you!

1. What do you think is the most important resource to be conserved in Cheshire? (Most important doesn't necessarily mean favorite)

2. Choose up to **five (5)** activities that you enjoy doing in Cheshire.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Bicycling | ☐ Hunting / trapping |
| ☐ Bird watching | ☐ Playgrounds / swings / slides |
| ☐ Boating / canoeing / kayaking | ☐ Running / jogging |
| ☐ Court sports (tennis, basketball, Pickleball, etc.) | ☐ Skateboarding / BMX / roller blading |
| ☐ Field sports (soccer, baseball, etc.) | ☐ Skiing - cross country |
| ☐ Water Activities (Swimming, wading, exploring shorelines/creeks) | ☐ Snowshoeing |
| ☐ Fishing / ice fishing | ☐ Snowmobiling/ATVs |
| ☐ Gardening | ☐ Dog Walking |
| ☐ Hiking / walking | ☐ Ice Skating/Hockey |
| ☐ Horseback riding | ☐ Camping |
| ☐ Other (please specify) | |

3. What are your three favorite places to visit in Cheshire?

- ☐ Ashuwillticook Trail
- ☐ Hoosac Reservoir/Cheshire Lake Upper Basin/Public Boat launch
- ☐ Hoosac Reservoir/Cheshire Lake Lower Basin
- ☐ Stafford's Hill Monument
- ☐ Cheshire Community House/Town Offices/Grounds
- ☐ Mount Greylock State Reservation
- ☐ Farnam's Causeway
- ☐ Appalachian Trail
- ☐ Cheshire Cobbles
- ☐ Chalet Wildlife Management Area
- ☐ Stafford's Hill Wildlife Management Area
- ☐ Cheshire Rod and Gun Club
- ☐ Local Farm
- ☐ Other
- ☐ If we didn't include your favorite, tell us about that place here.

4. What do you think would make your three favorite places even more enjoyable? Please try to be specific.

5. Does Cheshire need more recreational opportunities for: (check all that apply)

☐

Youth

☐

Adults

☐

People with disabilities

☐

Seniors

☐

Don't know / neutral

☐

Other (please specify)

6. In a typical year, how often do you visit the following locations in Cheshire? Please tell us which is your favorite.

	Very Frequently (13+ times/year)	Frequently (6-12 times/year)	Occasionally (1- 5 times/year)	Never	Haven't heard of it
Ashuwillticook Trail	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hoosac Reservoir/Cheshire Lake Upper Basin/Public Boat launch	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hoosac Reservoir/Cheshire Lake Lower Basin	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stafford's Hill Monument	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cheshire Community House/Town Offices/Grounds	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mount Greylock State Reservation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Farnam's Causeway	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Appalachian Trail	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cheshire Cobbles	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Chalet Wildlife Management Area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stafford's Hill Wildlife Management Area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cheshire Rod and Gun Club	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Local Farm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Of those, which is your favorite?

7. Which of the following are activities you would be willing to participate in to improve Open Space/Recreation in Cheshire?

- ☐ Participate in maintenance/cleanup at a local site.
- ☐ Donate equipment or materials.
- ☐ Teach a class/Lead an activity.
- ☐ Donate land or money for open space projects (potentially leading to tax benefits)
- ☐ Provide an easement on your property for an open space project (such as a trail.)
- ☐ Attend a meeting or join a committee.
- ☐ Support town acquisition of important open space land/ pay additional taxes for Open Space projects.
- ☐ Donate to or support non-profit organizations such as Hoosac Lake District
- ☐ Shop at a local farmer's market, support local farmers.
- ☐ If you have other ideas to protect open spaces in Cheshire, tell us about that here?

8. Which of the following conservation practices would you be willing to implement on your own property?

- ☐ Install rain gardens and/or vegetative buffers to reduce runoff and nutrient loading in Cheshire lakes, rivers, and streams.
- ☐ Install shades or light fixtures that decrease light pollution (dark skies improvements)
- ☐ Reduce use of insecticide, herbicide, fertilizers to reduce infiltration into town water bodies
- ☐ Remove invasive species
- ☐ Plant native species and pollinator friendly species
- ☐ Provide an easement or sale of land to support trail improvements in the town
- ☐ Other (please specify)

9. If you would like to leave your contact information to volunteer, participate with town activities, provide an easement, etc. please leave it here.

10. Would you use adult/senior exercise equipment (similar to Housatonic Commons or Lee's Outdoor fitness court) if it was installed at the Cheshire Community House (Cheshire Elementary)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other (please specify)

11. What outdoor element is missing for young children in Cheshire? If you have kids or grandkids, what improvements would your or your children like to see in the town?

12. Rate the following categories for town use of open space and recreation funds from high to low priority?

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	I don't support this activity.
Preserve Open Space.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Continued Funding of Hoosac Lake District.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Preserve farmland.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Preserve wildlife corridors and habitats.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Protect drinking water.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bike Paths (on or off road)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bird/wildlife viewing.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Court Sports (Basketball, pickleball, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Field Sports (Soccer, baseball, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fishing/Ice fishing.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gardening.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hiking/walking trails.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Playgrounds/swings/slides.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Snowmobiling/ATV.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Additional Kayak Launches at Farnam's Crossing	☐	☐	☐	☐

If we didn't list your top priority, tell us about it here.

13. Use this space to tell us about something we missed or other concerns regarding open space in Cheshire?

14. How do you access Hoosac Reservoir/Cheshire Lake? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ I access the lake from my lakefront property.
- ☐ I use the State boat ramp on Route 8 to launch a trailered boat.
- ☐ I use the State boat ramp to launch a kayak.
- ☐ I use Farnam's Causeway to launch a kayak.
- ☐ I view/enjoy/fish at the lake along the Ashuwillticook Trail.
- ☐ Other (please specify)

15. What activities do you enjoy on the lake? (please check all that apply)

- ☐ Fishing
- ☐ Swimming
- ☐ Motorboating/Jetski
- ☐ Canoeing/Kayak
- ☐ Sailing
- ☐ Watersports (waterskiing, tubing, etc.)
- ☐ Ice fishing.
- ☐ Other (please specify)

2. Demographics

Questions in this section are intended to gather basic demographic information about the questionnaire respondents.

16. Are you a year-round resident, part-time resident, or visitor to Cheshire?

- ☐ Year-round resident
- ☐ Part-time resident
- ☐ Visitor

17. If your answers represent other members of your household, please indicate the number of people and their age (including yourself). For example, a household of two people, both are age 50-59 would select from column "2 people" and row "50-59".

	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people
Under 10 years old	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10-19	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
20-29	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
30-39	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
40-49	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
50-59	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
60-69	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
70+	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

18. How do you get information about open space issues in Cheshire?

- ☐ E-mail notice from town hall
- ☐ Posters around town
- ☐ Town Website
- ☐ Berkshire Eagle/Edge/or other publication
- ☐ Cheshire Chatter
- ☐ Other (please specify)

19. If you would like to receive information about how the Open Space and Recreation planning process is progressing and receive public announcements about the project, please provide your email address below.

Cheshire Open Space and Recreation Individual Survey Results-

Question 1:

What do you think is the most important resource to be conserved in Cheshire? (Most important doesn't necessarily mean favorite)

- Cheshire lake. (X67/121)
- A wild and habitable environment for wildlife to not just exist but to thrive
- Absolutely the Cheshire Lake!
- Cheshire lake
- Cheshire lake
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- Cheshire lake
- Cheshire lake
- Cheshire Lake
- Cheshire Lake
- Cheshire Lake and its tributaries.
- cheshire lake and open land
- Cheshire Lake and other open spaces
- Cheshire Lake and the Hoosac River fishery
- Cheshire lake and the river system
- Cheshire Lake areas
- Cheshire Lake- you can't recreate that, controlling weeds would only increase value
- Cheshire Reservoir
- Cheshire Reservoir
- Cheshire Reservoir
- Cheshire Reservoir
- Cheshire Reservoir
- Cheshire reservoir and other streams
- Cheshire Reservoir Area
- Clean up the lake so we can eat the fish and swim in it without feeling yucky
- Current character.
- Don't know
- Drinking water
- Drinking Water; and Cheshire Lake!
- Farmland
- Farm land/ rural residential atmosphere.
- Farm lands
- Farming/farmland
- Farmlands
- Fix roads on Devonshire Dr.Yorkshir Dr Wiltshire Dr.
- For sure the lake
- Forest fields and agricultural land
- Forestlands. Secondly, agricultural lands.

- Forests and clean water
- forests to support biodiversity and climate resiliency
- Forests, fields, and agricultural lands
- Green space
- Groundwater for the drinking water supply. In future there may be concerted efforts by private enterprises to acquire rights to water supplies and this has damaged the capacity or quality of public water supplies in other areas. We need to be sure to protect ours.
- Hard to choose but I guess the public water supply is most important
- Hiking trails and lakeside subsidiaries
- Hoosac lake
- Hoosac Lake(s), Hiking Trails, Cobbles, Historic Downtown
- Hoosac Reservoir/Cheshire Lake
- How clean the lake is. Not a single local would use the word clean to describe the lake. From its past where it had stuff dumped into it to now. No one is willing to swim to even dip their toes in because of how gross it is
- It's small town feel and small town community.
- Lake
- lake
- Lake
- Lake and trail
- Lakes
- Land
- Land that contributes to our water supply.
- Maintaining the health of the lake
- Mountain and open space views
- Open land, undeveloped... No tents, no cabins, not signage... land kept in as natural a state as possible.
- Open space
- Open space and the cobbles

- Open space and water resources
- Open spaces
- Open, undeveloped land free of solar fields.
- Open-Ended Response
- Our clean water ways, townwide septic system
- Our lake
- Our youth
- Out activities
- Parks. People in the berkshires travel to do outdoor things and that is crazy
- Playing fields / playground at Community House
- Preserving land and water that supports our beautiful scenery and wild life
- Protecting the water supply
- Public land
- Quality of the lake. Without proper maintenance it will have a short life span, we saw what happened back in the 90's.
- Reservoir
- Safeguarding the public water supply.
- The Cheshire Reservoir
- The hiking trails
- The Lake
- The lake
- The Lake
- The lake
- The lake
- The lake
- The lake
- The lake
- The lake
- The lake and its surroundings.
- The lake!
- The lakes
- The rail trail
- The Reservoir
- The simple way of life

- The water is a great resource that other towns can be jealous of. Both drinking supply and recreational.
- There is no single "most" important.
 - 1) Town history, Cheshire Lake, Ashuwillticook Trail, Appalachian Trail Campsite (because A.T. is managed by others), former Elem School, Senior Center
- Water
- water
- Water
- Water
- water quality for recreational use
- Water. Bodies of water. Stream. Brooks. Wetlands.
- wetlands
- Wetlands
- What do you think is the most important resource to be conserved in Cheshire? (Most important doesn't necessarily mean favorite)
- Wildlife habitat
- Yes Cheshire Lake

Question 3:

Other Favorite Places mentioned

- Cheshire Senior Center
- I love it all! Too hard to decide! I picked 5 at first! Should be "all that apply!"
- My home
- Nobody's Road
- Old Cheshire school for baseball lacrosse practice and playground
- Roads
- Town hall war memorial

Question 4:

- ?
- 1. Protecting the land surrounding these places. 2. Maintaining the small town character of Cheshire, avoiding large scale commercial development outside of the Rt 8 corridor.
- A beach along with a kayak launch area at Farnam's Crossing
- A better trail to the cobbles .
- A clearly marked route to the cobbles. From both sides Tennis Court Lake activity rentals Clearly makes trails going to the cobbles from both Cheshire entrances.
- A more inviting appearance to the trails and lakeside surroundings
- A public beach on the lake for residents to enjoy.
- A redesign of the waterfront of Cheshire Lake Upper Basin to provide more pedestrian access, a few more picnic tables, etc.
- A water feature at Cheshire town hall/youth center (splash pad) Town sponsored events at local farms with petting areas for children hayrides fall festival
- A way to get there on transit!
- Access for all (you know, DEI??) including ATV/dirt bike and snowmobiles
- Access particularly to the Greylock reservation during the off season

- Access to a clean water supply to replenish water bottles on long runs or for my dog on a hot day.
- Access to food and drink
- Access to nearby amenities, public restrooms (not at the Cobbles but nearby by like where the trail crosses through)
- Additional resources / businesses that support a full experience in Cheshire, e.g. Visitor Center & Directional Signage, Coffe Shop, Arts & Culture.
- All town events attracting other towns.
- Allow access for snowmobiles on the rail trail as well as more atv riding. This could benefit the town of cheshire by increasing traffic to the new restaurant and maybe this could start something new.
- ATV use
- Better directions and trail to Cobbles
- Better launch area for kayaking, more parking around the lake, shoreline garbage and weed removal
- Better maintenance, additional trash cans, picnic tables, and benches.
- Better parking
- Better signage , can get lost going to Cobbles
- Better signage for Appalachian Trail access.
- Cheshire Cobbles, that it used to be a lot more beautiful but now you can see all the clearcutting on the other side of the street and that is sad and also isn't good for tourism.
- Clean water in lake More programs offered at G reservation
- Cleaner lake.
- Concessions at boat launch. Trash cans at boat ramp Summer outdoor movies/concerts at community area. 4th of July fireworks over lake
- Continued maintenance and grounds upkeep.
- Converting or lining more pickleball courts on outdoor basketball and tennis courts please.
- Ease of parking. Available drinking water. Better boat launch
- Easier access
- Excellent maintenance
- Extension of bike trail to NA, better signage to cobbles and parking off of Notch. A recumbent bike to use, stored at new Berkshire outfitters, for older residents to sign out
- Fixing the Monument to save for future generations
- Food trucks, smoothies/java, gazebos
- Fresh air and social activities
- Groomed all seasons.
- Have people form litter patrols all year
- Having a full-scale restaurant in town that served breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- I attempt to pick up as much trash as I can when in either the Stafford Hill or Cobbles parking areas but it's frustrating. Perhaps some type of routine trash cleaning or trash receptacles?

- I feel that more trees along the trail or planted in such a way that the car dealership is unseen. Unfortunately having the dealership there is an eyesore along a beautiful landscape.
- I would like to see solar lights along the Ashuwillticook trail in the center of town.
- If Farnams Causeway had a canoe kayak launch like the one on the Upper lake on Rte. 8 to access the Upper Lake from there. A sign at the Cobbles with a panoramic photo with points of interest called out. If possible, some kind of porta john between Adams and Cheshire on the bike trail- possibly at Cheshire harbor.
- If there was a way to create a public beach on the lake . . that would make it more enjoyable.
- If you have unused woods, disc golf is relatively easy and there is a big community that travels 30 min for leagues
- Improved wildlife habitat
- indoor pistol range
- Information kiosks that detail more local information pertaining to the specific site you are on
- Install elevated gazebo with benches for lake viewing. Plant trees and add benches where cheese press memorial is and reinstate the book donation box.
- investing in lengthening the rail trail through North Adams all the way to Williamstown - this would be a HUGE draw for tourism
- Just keep the rail trail well maintained
- Keep spaces clean and safe
- Keep them as they are are minimize noise pollution and light pollution as well as litter.
- Keep them clean and maintained.
- Keeping them clean and accessible.
- Kept clean and maintainance
- Less noise pollution and less cannabis odor
- Less people
- Less people
- Maintain them in a pristine condition
- Markings on rail trail reminding users of path delineation and direction of “traffic” flow. Other trails do this to reduce accidents between pedestrians and cyclists as well as limit leash length for dogs to avoid accidents with cyclists
- Mile markers and strip down middle of bike trail
- more bathroom access
- More community events.
- More community involvement in taking care of the town's resources.
- More funding to develop more dock space to launch kayaks and boats at both basins .
- More land open to ATV use.
- More monitoring for trash removal and increased policing to deter illegal activity(theft, drinking, drug use)
- More state land for hunting with more parking for the chalet-also youth archery during the summer at the chalet we have it at Cheshire rod and gun but across the state there are free archery places it would be nice to have one in Berkshire county. 2. More event at Cheshire

community house-we have loved the family events and would love to continue to see them happen and loved the ice rink this year, the Christmas trees, valentines dance-etc. more of this helps us know our neighbors, especially those with young kids. Maybe see if general dynamics would be willing to do steam/stem events for families or robotic clubs for youth to try to boost science in the area during the week/through the summer. 3. A beach at Cheshire lake and cleaner water at Cheshire lake-the amount of algae and sludge at the lake is unappealing, the water seems off as compared to kayaking in other places- the water smell seems off too. 4. We have the largest cave in northeast-it could essentially become a Howe caverns if the town bought even part of it-I'm unsure of who owns it but it could be used to capitalize the area and create more tax revenue for schools, roads, infrastructure 5. The library-it is so cute but could we do more events especially for the elderly that live close by and the youth-

- Nice signage Trail maintenance
- No motor boats on the reservoir!!
- not sure
- Nothing
- Open-Ended Response
- People not littering
- Picnic areas
- Place to eat in town with parking and outdoor dining
- Plow the snow on sections of the rail trail in winter. (Important walking place for seniors.) Also, post a sign warning bicyclists to watch out for pedestrians. Clear the foul-smelling muck near the causeway, if possible. Also, create more parking spaces near the start of the upper rail trail.
- Possibly de weeding the end of the second lake and the third lake on the nobody's road section.
- Providing more history and old maps of former buildings or businesses in and around the trails. Two examples, there was a shoe factory somewhere on Railroad St. and a world-renowned glass factory somewhere on Furnace Hill.
- Public restrooms (more of them)
- Public restrooms, cleanliness
- Public trash cans that are emptied regularly
- Refreshed blazes on AT Sweep rocks/sticks off rail trail
- Removing the invasive plants from the Ashuwillticook Trail.
- Rest rooms
- Safer traffic crossings on Ashuwillticook trail, pet waste disposal kiosks along the trail
- Something along the rail trail snack shop open more
- Stafford Hill monument would be nice if it had an information board about the history of the land and monument. The community house grounds could use a spruce up, the basketball court and more places for disposal of trash. The cobbles could use better information along the trail indicating the direction.
- Stocking northern pike in the lake

- The encouragement of higher focus on preservation of natural resources and wild lands in town, and promotion of public information of what a consumerist/capitalist society often does in negatively impacting those natural resources and wild lands in it's attempt to fuel it's economic/material systems.
- The fishing spots on the bike walk of the lake are far and few. It's hard to find a spot where 3 people can stand close enough to each other and fish while being close enough to converse. They should have cleared some obvious spots to fish along the lake. More tables with shade looking onto the river would be nice to enjoy a packed lunch
- The lake can get very weedy as the summer goes on which makes it a bit less appealing. The bike trail by the lake is often full of goose shit which is also unappealing. I can't imagine there is much that can be done about that, but anything would help.
- The lake needs to be cleaned - weeds need to be removed to make swimming and kayaking more safe for ALL ages.
- This may seem odd but better cell service. Using remote areas it's good to have service if there is a medical emergency.
- To allow snowmobiles on the rail trail.
- To make the 3 more enjoyable would be the knowledge that they would not be overdeveloped in the future.
- Trail etiquette. People letting you know that they are passing and picking up dog waste.
- Trash but generally try to pick up others trash as I go
- Trash can or receptacles for dog poop or just trash
- Trash cans on the rail trail, events at the causeway (food truck night? Or or local farmers market on The Weeknd?
- Trash clean up,
- Upgrade Boat launches on upper and middle basins of Hoosac Lake
- Visit Tommy the giant ox! Improve trail to the cobbles
- Weed control of Cheshire lake. Many rail trails have a line in the middle to suggest 'stay to the right, pass on the left'. Large groups (say 4 or more) can crowd the trail and impede travel of walkers, runners, cyclists.
- Well maintained trails and enjoying fresh air while exercising and getting healthier
- What do you think would make your three favorite places even more enjoyable? Please try to be specific.
- When they're well maintained
- Year round bathroom at Rail Trail

Question 5:

Other answers included:

- 18-30 year olds! We have nothing to do in town and people move away
- All of the above!
- Any added recreational opportunities would be great
- Being 80 I will leave this to the next generations.
- Cheshire needs to maximize efforts on what it already has.
- Dogs -to provide socialization, many dogs are in fenced in yards and have little opportunity to socialize.
- Don't need more
- Motorsports
- Other (please specify)
- People without cars
- Perhaps a location without bikes... seniors, parents of young children, disabled... all find it stressful to have to be on alter for bikes flying by.
- perhaps, disabled of all ages
- Promotion of lifestyle transformation, that promotes less needless consumerism and increases more enriching human-nature experiences.
- Sidewalk on Rte 8 to lake and rail trail
- Young 20/30 year olds-not a bar because many don't drink now-maybe a swing dance lessons for a modest fee at the youth center or a local farm doing a workshop on cheese making-this would fill up quick and make it more appealing to buy a house in the area as opposed to south county.

Question 8:

- Above are all things we are already doing as a family and farm that owns 72 acres. We have also been advocating on a town wide scale to reduce insecticides, put light shields on all lights and turn off unnecessary ones, raise consciousness about invasive plant species and removal for road maintenance longevity. We do educational work in the area teaching about native plant species and pollinators, as well as water way health.
- Find a way to reroute or close off the road drainage into the lake. I've noted Stormwater management violations. I do my best to mitigate the issue on my end but the town has turned a blind eye to it and it's impact on the lake.
- I don't live in Cheshire
- Install solar energy. From a local policy standpoint Cheshire has not encouraged residential solar installation as other communities have by joining cost saving programs.
- Live on condo community - little control
- none of these
- Not a Cheshire land owner.
- Not a property owner

- Not a resident of Cheshire but live in Berkshire County
- Other (please specify)
- Participate in removal of invasives
- Public beach at lake after cleaning up all sections of lake would probably involve Lanesboro participation
- Public education on the whys and how-tos of conservation practices is key, any state mandated or coerced conservation type practices are not.
- Whatever would help

Question 10:

- An outdoor gym of any sorts with a membership fee would absolutely crush it for the 18-30 year old population. Only 10 minutes from Adams and Pittsfield people would be more than willing to leave planet fitness for it
- At senior center.
- But my wife attends the senior exercise group at the center every week, and this is very important to us.
- Depends on the equipment and/or activity.
- It would be fantastic to have an exercise space for all residents to participate in.
- Maybe
- Maybe
- Maybe
- Maybe, not a top priority
- Not familiar with that
- Not familiar with these but maybe if I knew what they were.
- Not sure
- Other (please specify)
- Perhaps a sheltered suitable for use most of the time
- Personally no, but it sounds like a great idea.
- Possibly
- Senior/COA Center
- tennis or pickle ball courts

Question 11:

- A good school system.
- A public beach for all to use.
- A splash pad
- A splash pad would be awesome
- Activities for young adults- teen hangout with casual supervision .
- Activities to help create friendships with people of similar ages.
- arts and crafts, theatre, or music programs. I feel that sports are well represented, how about a pool. Horrible decision to have the pool removed from Hoosac Valley High School!
- ATV side by sides and dirt bike riding
- ATVs & motorcycles Skate/BMX park
- Camps/activities during school breaks/summers

- Clean lake. Camping lakeside. Shelter for year round use of area with eq near Cheshire Community House
- Community garden
- Events- movies, yoga, music, art, tutoring, nature classes like they hold at the glen
- Full size basketball court and new hoops
- I don't have children. And just believe families should encourage children to get out along trail rail, hiking trails, etc found in town and explore.
- I love the skating rink so anything similar
- Improvement on the play ground equipment. Summer educational programs
- Install more slides with attached climbing structures and shelters for 2-5 year old similar to Krispy Cone in Lanesboro
- Keep the playground open and accessible.
- Kids need something similar to the community center in Lenox and definitely need to place to go inside and play basketball during the winter months.
- Larger basketball courts.
- Many youth sports are now gone from the town
- Maybe an expansion of the park somehow or more town activities for us to participate in.
- monitored playground with rides and tables for games and activities and wading pool like Pittsfield used to have
- More access, parking, and signage for lesser known public lands such as Chalet WMA
- More clubs for youth-especially those not sport related. More of a sense of belonging for kids- we have great kids in this community and not having a northern Berkshire newspaper makes it difficult for them to find time to shine. Youth horseback riding through the town, youth classes about making jam or cooking , Pittsfield has the boys and girls club that has many classes and clubs after school, lenox has the youth center that has the option for after school for a modest fee for families that live within the town(less than 300 a year or around there), great Barrington has the railroad youth committee that runs local events and clubs, it would be nice to see more things-acting for kids-even if it was a partnering with Adams theater or Barrington stage- we have great assets in our community -a local 4h that meets in Cheshire-small things to make Cheshire really appealing especially in the housing market. High end houses have had buyers turn away because of schools and lack of knowledge of the area.
- More joint activities with neighboring towns
- More organized children's activities
- More outdoor activities
- More playground equipment for younger & older kids. Area facing ball field (like a quad) equipped w more playground to siblings at games have activities & can be supervised.
- N/A
- No children
- none
- Not sure
- not sure -- no kids!

- Not sure if they do this already, but there should be exposure to and education for young children about natural areas of the town, open space, and resources. Organized hikes, visits to farms, etc.
- Nothing is missing
- Open to public indoor basketball court
- Opportunities for them to experience hiking on the Appalachian Trail.
- Organized education of the natural resources available in our town. Identifying plants, wildlife and even edible resources
- Perhaps outdoor movies
- Physically challenging structures for teens - ropes, climbing wall, etc
- Pick up games(sports) sport camps at Cheshire Community
- Pool
- Safe docks, swimming /fishing areas reduce weeds and remove decades of rotting weeds / muck.
- skate board park with hills and dips/basins to entertain the kids
- Skate park. Splash pad.
- Skateboard park A well-maintained multi-purpose athletic field for youth sports like soccer, football, lacrosse, field hockey etc.
- Something fun, unique, and exciting for the kids to do.
- Somewhere to gather and play safely
- Splash Pad
- Splash pad
- Splash Pad
- Splash pad outdoor movies in the summer Fall festival with local farms continue to upgrade/maintain playground is very important
- Splash pad!
- Splash Pad, skate and bike park
- Splash park
- Splash park
- Splash park, a beach area at Cheshire Lake.
- support for youth center
- Swimming pool
- The ice skating rink that was opened this past winter was GREAT!
- The lake isn't safe to swim in due to the current weeds - it's dangerous for young swimmers who could get tangled and sucked under.
- The skate parks in surrounding towns have proved successful. Splash pad have also but those come with maintenance and up keep. A skate park or hang out for youth is upfront cost but requires nothing after the fact. Many local craftsman could build one.
- Town pool or place to swim
- Trails to ride an atv/snowmobile
- Water activites. Sports teams. Party rental space.
- Water park

- We love the playgrounds - more activities and opportunities for kids to explore and run around. But bathrooms are a necessity and access to food (like a snack bar) would be great.

Question 13:

- a community garden, promoting backyard victory gardens. many educators and seniors might volunteer their expertise
- A lot of families have dogs but there are limited community provisions for them. The rail trail allows for walking, but is limited space. A fenced supported dog park would allow dogs to run, play and socialize.
- Although this is an open space plan, the quality of Cheshire lake (an asset) could be vastly improved by having all the homes on the shores of the lake have improved waste water septic systems
- ATV/snowmobiles user groups are willing to perform trail maintenance. Explore this opportunity to be the 4th public ATV property in the entire state. Yes, 1 of 4 total. This would put Cheshire on the map.
- Balance of protecting and utilizing nature
- beach for swimming
- Beach.
- Biggest need is for access to clean drinking water along the Ashuwillticook trail for visitors exercising, running, biking or seeking extra water on hot day.
- Camping opportunities....municipal or private. The attract, the town needs to be attractive. Art in the downtown, improve ways to attract relevant retail and food services (thankful for new restaurant opening). Music back at Farnums crossing every Sunday / weekend.
- Elderly activities and mental health-can we turn into an area that would be a blue zone with more community spaces ?
- Having a dog park for both small and large dogs!
- I am concerned that political messaging under the guise of "art" may be allowed to "decorate/enhance" public use locations. For the pure and healthy enjoyment of the outdoors we, as a town, should keep ALL political/ideological messaging away from our outdoor spaces.
- I am worried about the infestation of Asian jumping worms in our area especially around the lake.
- I believe the preservation and proper use of agricultural fields is highly important for flora, fauna/bird and soil preservation efforts. Making proper decision on how remaining agricultural fields are used is essential to soil protection and in turn the life of countless species.
- I feel cleaning and protecting the lake is essential to our future. The lake is a potential source of eco-tourism that could draw tourists in all year round and contribute to our economic longevity.
- I would like to be able to view a detailed map of Cheshire that shows all the public land in town that residents can use for hiking, dog walking, etc. The maps should show trails, parking, trailheads, etc. and should include state owned land as well.

- I would like to see the Town take responsibility for the parks and dedicated spaces to maintain the grounds with mowing, flowers, and shoveling. Having the Senior Citizens of Cheshire plant flowers at the old Town Hall is sad and irresponsible. It is also horrific that the Town accepted the memorial stone with the list of names of people who gave their lives in the service/for our freedom, as well as Petithory Park, where people are very familiar with Dan Petithory who gave his life as well, are not taken care of by the Town of Cheshire. That is deplorable. The Town should be ashamed.
- I would recommend a comprehensive watershed study with respect to Cheshire Lake that would result in an action plan to limit invasive plant species and other matter from reaching the Lake. Increase the availability of hiking trails on public and private lands.
- Improve parking opportunities for recreational trail access. What little parking is available is often at capacity.
- It seems to make sense that since the state owns much of the open space in Cheshire that the town establish a close working relationship with the appropriate agencies in the interest of strong collaboration. The fact that the town has preserved this land is commendable, however there could be opportunities to have it further benefit residents, visitors, and the economy. Looking for examples of success in other communities in which the state holds significant acreage might add some value.
- Looks good
- More visibility in media to attract out of town visitors
- N/A
- nothing
- Snowmobiling access to the Ashuwillticook Trail as promised when it was being developed!
- Somehow need to get more people involved. It's always the same people helping and volunteering their time. The question is "How?" I'm sorry I don't have this answer.
- Stop trying to turn the lake into a swimming pool for the lake residents, the lake is being poisoned by total dewatering effort. A healthy body of water has 30-35% with active growing weeds according to Masswildlife. Weeds take in carbon and release oxygen, also provide habitat for all types of wildlife in the food chain. The fish population has greatly suffered since the total dewatering efforts started as well as the timing of the applications of the poison, though stated it doesn't kill fish, it depleats the oxygen in the water and removes their habitat indirectly killing them.
- The launching and parking for canoes and kayaks is not amenable for paddlers. The parking isn't safe with too narrow of a spot to park in. That special launch thing doesn't help people with expensive and easily damaged boats. It's for plastic kayaks only. The dock is short and you can't safely launch a canoe or kayak from that launch unless you use that launch thing which will damage the canoe or kayak. Its not a good solution.
- We need more things for teenagers. The seniors have soccer and pickles all. The younger kids have the playgrounds. An actual beach area on the lake would be beneficial with a picnic area.

Question 14:

- Bike trail access at Farnam's Causeway
- enter to swim near Mallard cove, small grassy area usually free from lake weeds
- Fishing near the boat launch, farnums causeway
- for quiet reflections
- I fish from shore along the whole lake
- I haven't used the lake yet.
- I typically do not go out on the water, but walk on Ashuwillticook trail along side of the lake.
- It's tough to get to any rec. from our awful roads.
- Launch boat at Farnums causeway for southern basin
- none
- Use boat launch or weigh station to access for ice fishing.
- Walk the rail-trail
- Weigh station , few homeowners allow access for ice fishing and most actually discourage this outdoor activity as they think they own the lake

Question 17:

- Under 10 (48)
- 10-19 (40)
- 20-29 (45)
- 30-39 (41)
- 40-49 (41)
- 50-59 (65)
- 60-69 (60)
- 70-79 (73)
- Total citizens represented by survey- 413

Cheshire

Open Space and Recreation Public Forum

CHESHIRE COMMUNITY
HOUSE
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9TH
5:30-7:00

Join the Open Space and Recreation Committee to discuss the results of the townwide survey and the proposed Goals, Objectives, and Actions for the updated plan.

This plan makes the town eligible for state grants including; for land acquisition, parks improvements, and conservation.

We will have pizza and refreshments and encourage all residents to participate.

Presenting the results of the Open Space Survey

and

Committee recommendations on new Goals, Objectives, and Actions for the next 7 years in Cheshire.



Hoosac Reservoir/Cheshire Lake from the Cobbles
Photo Credit: Liseann Karandisecky



BRPC
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Appendix B: Letters of Endorsement from Planning Board, Select Board, RPA



TOWN OF CHESHIRE

191 CHURCH STREET | CHESHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS 01225
PHONE (413) 743-1690

WWW.CHESHIRE-MA.GOV

PLANNING BOARD

February 25, 2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
100 CAMBRIDGE STREET 10TH FLOOR
BOSTON, MA 01214**

To whom it may concern,

The Cheshire Open Space and Recreation Committee has completed the draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) for the Town of Cheshire. The plan highlights the importance of protecting the town's recreation and conservation areas. The Planning Board recognizes the important role that they play in meeting three key goals of the plan:

1. Enhance recreational opportunities throughout the town.
2. Improve waterfront recreation opportunities at Hoosac Reservoir.
3. Protecting the town's surface and groundwater resources.

The plan provides a Seven-Year Action Plan that protects town resources while improving recreational offerings.

At today's meeting, February 26, 2025, the Town of Cheshire Planning Board voted to endorse the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) 2025.

Signed,

Aaron Singer – Chairman
Town of Cheshire Planning Board

TOWN OF CHESHIRE

191 CHURCH STREET | CHESHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS 01225
PHONE (413) 743-1690

WWW.CHESHIRE-MA.GOV

February 5, 2025

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street
10th Floor
Boston, MA 012114

To Whom It May Concern,

The Cheshire Open Space and Recreation Committee has completed the draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) for the town. The plan highlights the importance of protecting the town's recreation and conservation areas. The Select Board recognizes the important role that they play in meeting three key goals of the plan

1. Enhances recreational opportunities throughout the town.
2. Improving waterfront recreation opportunities at Hoosac Reservoir.
3. Protecting the town's surface and groundwater resources.

The plan provides a Seven-Year Action Plan that protects town resources while improving recreational offerings.

At today's meeting, February 5, 2025, the Cheshire Select Board voted to endorse the Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shawn McGrath', is written over a horizontal line.

Board of Selectmen
Shawn McGrath, Chair



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

MALCOLM FICK, Chair
JOHN DUVAL, Vice-Chair
SHEILA IRVIN, Clerk
BUCK DONOVAN, Treasurer
THOMAS MATUSZKO,
Executive Director

January 31, 2025

Melissa Cryan, Grant Programs Supervisor
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Melissa:

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) has reviewed the *Town of Cheshire Open Space and Recreation Plan* (OSRP). The plan takes on several important components that are vital for the health of the town and region.

- Development of a Hoosac Reservoir Master Plan and enhancement of access to the lake in coordination with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Hoosac Lake Preservation District.
- Partnering with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to highlight and promote Wildlife Management Areas in the town, including Chalet Wildlife Management Area, Stafford Hill WMA, and Savoy WMA while working to limit risk of wildfire in these areas.
- Improve recreational offerings in the town through the creation of additional pocket parks.
- Highlighting the long history of agriculture in the town through partnering with local producers, farm advocacy organizations, and local citizens through instituting a Farmers Market in the town.

BRPC endorses the plan as written and commends the Town of Cheshire for its efforts to protect the region's natural resources, expand outdoor recreational opportunities and sustain a high quality of life.

Sincerely,

Cornelius Hoss, AICP
Community Planning and Development Program Manager

Appendix C: Chapter 61 Lands in the Town.

Map/P arcel	Loc_ID	Assessor Acres	Chapter Type	Address	Owner	GIS Acres
213-008	M_62731_925447	69.00	Chapter 61A	145 OUTLOOK AVENUE	Graham, Nicholas S	68.72
241-014	M_69355_925388	52.00	Chapter 61A	128 FALES ROAD	Zieminski, Justin	54.83
204-002	M_60846_923323	731.00	Chapter 61A	180 QUARRY ROAD	Farnams-Goodlife Corporation	746.95
216-035	M_62670_922272	62.00	Chapter 61, 61A	179 FISHER HILL	Parker, Robert &	61.44
216-100.1	M_62550_921945	85.97	Chapter 61, 61A	225 FISHER HILL	Wrenn, Joseph	90.01
214-001	M_61370_925163	107.00	Chapter 61A	612 WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD	Warner, Mark F	109.85
214-034	M_61607_924881	19.10	Chapter 61A	627 WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD	Warner, Mark F	19.87
217-078	M_61587_921295	7.92	Chapter 61A	221 INGALLS ROAD	Whitney, Eric & Michelle M	7.91
225-020	M_64124_926699	124.00	Chapter 61A	743-749 NORTH STATE ROAD	Daniels, John &	123.58
228-021	M_66191_926627	25.95	Chapter 61A	850 WELLS ROAD	King, Frances & Jajko Jeannette	26.03
229-018	M_65632_925415	19.05	Chapter 61A	448 WELLS ROAD	Joppich, Joseph A &	19.13
230-004	M_65366_925136	23.27	Chapter 61A	346 WELLS ROAD	Joppich, Mark A	23.25
230-028	M_65906_924237	4.18	Chapter 61A	594 WINDSOR ROAD	Martin, Everett L	4.39
230-029	M_65646_924924	47.00	Chapter 61A	262 WELLS ROAD	Grimshaw, Dale A & Patricia	49.17
231-003	M_65534_923846	11.27	Chapter 61A	245 NOTCH ROAD	Balawender, Robert W & Dale C	11.13
235-024	M_68001_924503	121.00	Chapter 61A	1322 WINDSOR ROAD	Winterpast Farm LLC	120.49
237-001	M_67123_926475	66.00	Chapter 61A	800 JENKS ROAD	Goldfarb, Miriam D	67.62
240-022	M_69521_927448	35.00	Chapter 61A	1181 SAVOY ROAD	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	34.61
240-023	M_69786_927687	114.31	Chapter 61A	1285 SAVOY ROAD	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	97.36
241-011	M_69542_925831	108.00	Chapter 61A	306-308 FALES ROAD	Gwozdz, John J & Sophie	107.62
242-021	M_68907_924126	37.77	Chapter 61A	295 RICHMOND HILL	Daniels, Dixon Scott	39.01

243-007	M_69158_923545	118.84	Chapter 61A	0 RICHMOND HILL	Daniels, Dixon Scott &	117.47
218-019	M_61416_919676	21.74	Chapter 61A	450 BROUGH ROAD	Walak, Andrew J &	22.68
214-031	M_62068_925168	6.00	Chapter 61A	419 WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD	Warner, Mark F & Warner Joshua M &	5.87
112-005	M_63514_925774	34.03	Chapter 61A	73 COOLIDGE ROAD	Kittler, Emil & Eleanor (LE) &	34.04
228-012	M_66199_927515	31.44	Chapter 61A	1051-1053 WELLS ROAD	Jayko, Theodore F	32.81
235-017	M_68645_924902	24.00	Chapter 61A	0 WINDSOR ROAD	Mach, Lawrence F &	23.74
202-014	M_61014_920431	2.50	Chapter 61A	25 INGALLS CROSSING	Whitney, Eric	2.28
201-013	M_60999_920332	1.20	Chapter 61A	0 SOUTH STATE ROAD	Whitney, Eric	1.20
202-013	M_61013_920551	2.30	Chapter 61A	0 SOUTH STATE ROAD	Whitney, Eric	2.19
206-005	M_60875_925511	84.71	Chapter 61B	310 CURRAN ROAD	Cheshire Rod & Gun Club	85.38
240-025	M_69863_926842	71.94	Chapter 61A	1190-1192 SAVOY ROAD	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	71.91
217-037	M_62762_921302	241.00	Chapter 61	0 WILSHIRE DRIVE	Hutchinson, Raymond C Trustee	234.30
228-016	M_66668_926506	45.00	Chapter 61A	801 JENKS ROAD	Goldfarb, Miriam D	46.75
239-002	M_69230_928024	116.30	Chapter 61A	0 STEWART WHITE ROAD	Alibozek, Barbara J	116.28
241-019	M_69811_926320	119.27	Chapter 61A	0 FALES ROAD	Gwozdz, Joseph J & Nancy	119.39
201-007	M_60911_920331	0.75	Chapter 61A	0 SOUTH STATE ROAD	Whitney, Eric & Eileen	0.75
202-002	M_60930_920569	5.80	Chapter 61A	0 SOUTH STATE ROAD	Whitney, Eric & Eileen	4.84
225-021	M_64409_927061	21.33	Chapter 61A	0 NORTH STATE ROAD	Daniels, John &	21.10
228-013.2	M_66677_927280	113.00	Chapter 61A	0 JENKS ROAD	Drain, Terri L & Superneau Beverly J &	114.78
228-019	M_66292_926957	35.00	Chapter 61A	0 JENKS ROAD	Jayko, Theodore F	35.45
230-014	M_65494_924500	66.00	Chapter 61A	0 WINDSOR ROAD	Martin, Everett L	64.49
230-015	M_66036_924848	127.00	Chapter 61A	0 WINDSOR ROAD	Martin, Everett L	128.59
231-035	M_65862_923366	45.00	Chapter 61A	0 NOTCH ROAD	Martin, Kim I	45.83

235-006	M_67729_924859	6.70	Chapter 61A	0 WINDSOR ROAD	Winterpast Farm LLC	6.89
235-017.1	M_68669_925110	2.80	Chapter 61A	0 SAND MILL ROAD	Mach, Lawrence F &	2.56
237-091	M_67800_927671	2.90	Chapter 61A	0 HENRY WOOD ROAD	Ayrhill Farms Inc	2.78
238-019	M_67828_928250	28.00	Chapter 61A	45 HENRY WOOD ROAD	Ayrhill Farms Inc	28.58
238-020	M_68259_928143	95.00	Chapter 61A	190 HENRY WOOD ROAD	Ayrhill Farms Inc	94.63
239-007	M_69688_928207	47.00	Chapter 61A	0 STEWART WHITE ROAD	Alibozek, Joseph & Theresa	50.27
239-018	M_69261_927772	1.38	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.38
239-019	M_69156_927781	2.14	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	2.13
239-020	M_69179_927855	1.95	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.97
239-021	M_69214_927906	2.31	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	2.28
239-022	M_69281_927911	1.60	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.53
240-022.01	M_69288_927716	1.38	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.36
240-022.02	M_69319_927666	1.56	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.60
240-022.03	M_69350_927613	1.79	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.83
240-022.04	M_69380_927559	1.82	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.87
240-022.05	M_69357_927347	1.77	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.79
240-022.06	M_69292_927333	1.51	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.52

240-022.07	M_69206_ 927344	1.46	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.49
240-022.08	M_69114_ 927366	1.93	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.95
240-022.09	M_69075_ 927413	2.03	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	2.08
240-022.10	M_69084_ 927493	2.00	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	2.04
240-022.11	M_69103_ 927572	1.44	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.47
240-022.12	M_69117_ 927640	1.44	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.43
240-022.13	M_69132_ 927708	1.38	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.37
240-022.14	M_69216_ 927644	1.70	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.74
240-022.15	M_69198_ 927540	1.90	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.94
240-022.16	M_69270_ 927540	1.90	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.97
240-022.17	M_69282_ 927438	2.07	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	2.10
240-022.18	M_69197_ 927450	1.91	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	1.92
240-022.19	M_69187_ 927394	4.00	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin H Trustee	4.25
241-009	M_68830_ 926066	63.00	Chapter 61A	0 FALES ROAD	Gwozdz, John J & Sophie	60.84
218-001.1	M_61642_ 919593	1.97	Chapter 61A	0 BROUGH ROAD	Walak, Andrew J &	1.91
218-009.1	M_61761_ 919641	6.25	Chapter 61A	0 BROUGH ROAD	Walak, Andrew J &	6.30

201-001	M_60376_920238	6.10	Chapter 61A	0 NOBODY'S ROAD	Gallagher, Timothy Michael &	5.91
231-019	M_66547_922547	82.00	Chapter 61A	0 NOTCH ROAD	Martin, Everett L	81.48
242-001	M_69201_924035	12.41	Chapter 61A	0 WINDSOR ROAD	Daniels, Dixon S &	13.05
202-028	M_61953_920678	301.08	Chapter 61A	0 INGALLS ROAD	Whitney, Eric	301.79
201-014	M_61351_920031	76.26	Chapter 61A	0 INGALLS ROAD	Whitney, Eileen & Eric	77.66
213-018	M_63098_926135	6.30	Chapter 61A	0 OUTLOOK AVENUE	Kittler, Emil & Eleanor (LE) &	6.22
230-032	M_65877_923901	82.00	Chapter 61A	0 WINDSOR ROAD	Martin, Everett L	81.49
231-019.1	M_66400_922949	2.00	Chapter 61A	0 NOTCH ROAD	Martin, Everett L	2.04
231-038	M_66194_922962	9.60	Chapter 61A	0 NOTCH ROAD	Martin, Everett L	9.80
231-040	M_65628_923595	6.82	Chapter 61A	0 NOTCH ROAD	Balawender, Fred S	6.70
228-009	M_65730_927337	121.09	Chapter 61A	0 WELLS ROAD	Jayko, Theodore F	120.41
202-015	M_61077_920640	3.10	Chapter 61A	0 INGALLS ROAD	Whitney, Eric & Eileen	2.69
242-034	M_68931_924901	1.71	Chapter 61B	0 SAND MILL ROAD	Kirk, Alice M	1.77
242-016	M_69162_924553	56.91	Chapter 61B	0 WINDSOR ROAD	Kirk, Alice M	55.33

Appendix D: Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory of Historic Sites

Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Town	Year	Designations
CHS.A	Cheshire Town Center		Cheshire		
CHS.B	Farnams Village Historic District		Cheshire		NRDIS;
CHS.C	Mount Greylock State Reservation		Cheshire		
CHS.D	Old Church-yard Cemetery		Cheshire		NRIND;
CHS.E	Cheshire Town Hall Complex		Cheshire		NRDIS;
CHS.59	Capen - Ross - Curtiss House	Church St	Cheshire		
CHS.901	Cheshire Cheese Monument	Church St	Cheshire	1940	
CHS.958	Cheshire Honor Roll	Church St	Cheshire	1998	NRDIS;
CHS.959	Cheshire Town Hall Flag Pole	Church St	Cheshire	R 1980	NRDIS;
CHS.960	Cheshire Town Hall Granite Benches	Church St	Cheshire	2011	NRDIS;
CHS.961	Cheshire Town Hall Photovoltaic Panel	Church St	Cheshire	2011	NRDIS;
CHS.920	Cheshire World War I Memorial	Church St	Cheshire	1921	NRDIS;
CHS.921	Memorial Revolutionary War Watering Trough	Church St	Cheshire	1914	NRDIS;
CHS.78	Tanner - Chapman - Brown House	22 Church St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.79	Cheshire Old Baptist Parsonage	27 Church St	Cheshire	C 1849	
CHS.76	Martin, George House	28-30 Church St	Cheshire	1885	
CHS.77	Reed, Moses - Cole, Dr. L. J. House	41 Church St	Cheshire	1815	
CHS.75	Wolcott Store	52-54 Church St	Cheshire	C 1844	
CHS.73		77 Church St	Cheshire		
CHS.74	Cheshire Town Hall	80 Church St	Cheshire	1898	NRDIS;
CHS.109	Cheshire Trolley Station - Ticket Office	82 Church St	Cheshire	1906	NRDIS;
CHS.110	Cheshire Trolley Power Plant	84 Church St	Cheshire	1906	NRDIS;
CHS.72	Brown, Henry House	93 Church St	Cheshire	1843	
CHS.69	Foster, E. D. Store	100-106 Church St	Cheshire	C 1845	
CHS.68	Dean, J. B. House	108 Church St	Cheshire		
CHS.67	Mechanics Hall	116-120 Church St	Cheshire	C 1850	
CHS.70	Wood - Harkness - Martin House	123-125 Church St	Cheshire	C 1843	
CHS.66	Fairfield, Paul Blacksmith Shop	136-140 Church St	Cheshire	C 1840	
CHS.63	Rider House	142 Church St	Cheshire		
CHS.65	Chapman - Wood House	175-177 Church St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.58	Jenks House	180 Church St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.64	Bliss - Jenks - Chapman House	185 Church St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.62	Cheshire United Methodist Church	197 Church St	Cheshire	1848	
CHS.61	Methodist Church Parsonage	203 Church St	Cheshire	C 1848	
CHS.60	Foster, Capt. Edmund House	221 Church St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.104	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	54 Crusher Rd	Cheshire	C 1910	NRDIS;
CHS.101	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	70 Crusher Rd	Cheshire	C 1910	NRDIS;

CHS.43	Bulfinch - Reynolds House	43 Dean St	Cheshire	1858	
CHS.42	Stowell House	50-52 Dean St	Cheshire		
CHS.41	Bryant - Fish House	64-66 Dean St	Cheshire		
CHS.40	Brown - Leonard House	99 Dean St	Cheshire		
CHS.52	Jenks - Archibald House	42 Depot St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.51	Brown - Mason - Harner House	52 Depot St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.50	Brown, Werden House	66 Depot St	Cheshire	C 1876	
CHS.54	U. S. Post Office - Old Cheshire Branch	67-69 Depot St	Cheshire	C 1845	
CHS.53	Northrup House	75-79 Depot St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.49	Bennet - Ingalls House	78-84 Depot St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.48	Bliss - Martin House	98-100 Depot St	Cheshire		
CHS.47	Tomkins - Nickerson House	105 Depot St	Cheshire	C 1845	
CHS.45	Pristol - Olin - Haskins House	113 Depot St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.46	Brown - Trotter House	114 Depot St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.8	Campbell House	127 Depot St	Cheshire	C 1863	
CHS.17	Buffington - Jenks - Harrington House	247 East Harbor Rd	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.907	East Main Street Bridge over South Brook	East Main St	Cheshire	1939	
CHS.806	Fales Road - Sand Mill Road Cemetery	Fales Rd	Cheshire	C 1799	
CHS.36	Smith, Capt. Daniel House	306 Fales Rd	Cheshire	1805	
CHS.912	Berkshire Street Railway Railroad Bed and Trestle	Farnams Rd	Cheshire	C 1900	NRDIS;
CHS.911	Cheshire Reservoir	Farnams Rd	Cheshire	C 1866	NRDIS;
CHS.910	Farnams Road Causeway	Farnams Rd	Cheshire	C 1858	NRDIS;
CHS.10	Cole, Dexter Farm	Fred Mason Rd	Cheshire	C 1830	
CHS.33	Mason House	265 Fred Mason Rd	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.34	Browning - Brown House	456 Fred Mason Rd	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.16	Edmonds - Edmunds House	Harbor Rd	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.15	Wells - Richmond - Briggs House	273-275 Harbor Rd	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.808	Ingalls Road Cemetery	Ingalls Rd	Cheshire	C 1813	
CHS.803	Old Church-yard Cemetery	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1785	NRIND;
CHS.945	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Briggs, Nancy B. Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1818	NRIND;
CHS.947	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Brown, Allan Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1820	NRIND;
CHS.935	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Brown, Benjamin Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1809	NRIND;
CHS.932	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Brown, Joseph Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1807	NRIND;

CHS.928	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Brown, Lucey Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1794	NRIND;
CHS.924	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Carpenter, Amey Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1785	NRIND;
CHS.941	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Carpenter, S. Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1815	NRIND;
CHS.951	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Converse, Capt. C. Stne	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1830	NRIND;
CHS.953	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Converse, Rebecca Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1835	NRIND;
CHS.940	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Cushing, Dr. D. Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1814	NRIND;
CHS.954	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Cushing, Freelove Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1843	NRIND;
CHS.950	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Cushing, Julia Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1829	NRIND;
CHS.942	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Dexter, Hopestill Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1815	NRIND;
CHS.933	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Fisk, Lydia Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1807	NRIND;
CHS.946	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Fisk, Lydia Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1819	NRIND;
CHS.930	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Flack, Melindy Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1796	NRIND;
CHS.936	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Goff, Elijah Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1812	NRIND;
CHS.931	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Hathaway, Isaac Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1798	NRIND;
CHS.925	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Hathaway, Phoebe Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1785	NRIND;
CHS.927	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Hoskins, Hannah Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1792	NRIND;
CHS.929	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Jenks, Dr. W. Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1794	NRIND;
CHS.949	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Luther, Rebecca Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1822	NRIND;
CHS.948	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Manchester, J. Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1821	NRIND;
CHS.939	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Mason, Capt. P. Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1813	NRIND;
CHS.937	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Mason, Chloe Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1812	NRIND;
CHS.952	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Mason, Lt. T. Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1832	NRIND;
CHS.943	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Read, Betsy Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1815	NRIND;
CHS.955	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Wells, Capt. S. Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1848	NRIND;
CHS.944	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Werden, Capt. P. Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1816	NRIND;
CHS.934	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Werden, Rev. P. Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1808	NRIND;
CHS.926	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Willmarth, E. Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1785	NRIND;
CHS.938	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Wilmarth, C. Stone	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1812	NRIND;

CHS.922	Old Church-yard Cemetery Perimeter Stone Wall	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1913	NRIND;
CHS.923	Old Church-yard Cemetery Wood Sign	Jenks Rd	Cheshire	R 1970	NRIND;
CHS.20	Brown, Nicholas House	411 Jenks Rd	Cheshire	C 1770	
CHS.21	Low, Capt. Samuel House	800 Jenks Rd	Cheshire	C 1768	
CHS.809	Bucklin, Jerusha Grave	801 Jenks Rd	Cheshire	1776	
CHS.99	Carney, H. - Curtis, Seth Barn	Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1870	NRDIS;
CHS.914	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone Company Railroad Tunnel	Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	1916	NRDIS;
CHS.909	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone Company Tramway Bed	Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	1909	NRDIS;
CHS.102	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	668 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1920	NRDIS;
CHS.103	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	678 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1920	NRDIS;
CHS.93	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	708 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1910	NRDIS;
CHS.96	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	766 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1910	NRDIS;
CHS.91	Curtis, Henry H. House	778 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1865	NRDIS;
CHS.97	Bliss, Orrin House	790 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1850	NRDIS;
CHS.98	Farnam Village Fire Station	790 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1900	NRDIS;
CHS.100	Farnam-Cheshire Lime Company Processing Mill	805-839 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	R 1915	NRDIS;
CHS.107	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Paymaster Office	805-839 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	1921	NRDIS;
CHS.94	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone Company Carpentry Shop	805-839 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1920	NRDIS;
CHS.92	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone Company Power House	805-839 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1915	NRDIS;
CHS.90	Farnum Brothers Lime Company Stock Room	805-839 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1880	NRDIS;
CHS.105	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	858 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1910	NRDIS;

CHS.108	Jenks, Frank J. House	931 Lanesborough Rd	Cheshire	C 1880	NRDIS;
CHS.956	Main Street Bridge over Hoosic River	Main St	Cheshire		
CHS.71	Brown - Martin House	137-139 Main St	Cheshire		
CHS.900	Berkshire Volunteer Monument	North St	Cheshire	1932	
CHS.802	North Street Cemetery	North St	Cheshire	1775	
CHS.4	Cole Brother's Store	11 North St	Cheshire	1808	
CHS.5	Hall's Tavern	31 North St	Cheshire	1804	NRIND;
CHS.84	First Baptist Church	32 North St	Cheshire	1849	
CHS.82	Morgan, Roxey House	43 North St	Cheshire	C 1920	
CHS.83	Lockwood House	61 North St	Cheshire	R 1904	
CHS.89	Brown, Werden House	64 North St	Cheshire	C 1870	
CHS.85	Brown - Wood House	68 North St	Cheshire	C 1876	
CHS.86	Slade - Brown - Foster House	78 North St	Cheshire		
CHS.87	Dean, Alanson P. House	120 North St	Cheshire	1853	
CHS.88	Jarvis - Dean House	121-123 North St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.6	Bradford - Cole House	North State Rd	Cheshire	1790	
CHS.11	Cushing - Martin House	North State Rd	Cheshire	1791	
CHS.7	Richardson House	725 North State Rd	Cheshire	C 1792	
CHS.9	Jenks, Elisha Cotton Mill	1490 North State Rd	Cheshire	R 1825	
CHS.37	Brown, William - Stafford, Richard House	867 Notch Rd	Cheshire	C 1792	
CHS.12	Miller - Card House	54 Pleasant View Dr	Cheshire		
CHS.917	Farnams Limestone Quarry	Quarry Rd	Cheshire	C 1874	NRDIS;
CHS.916	Farnum, A. S. Lime Kilns Dymite Shed Ruins	Quarry Rd	Cheshire	C 1840	NRDIS;
CHS.903	Farnum, A. S. Lime Kilns Quarrying Equipment	Quarry Rd	Cheshire	R 1895	NRDIS;
CHS.915	Northup, Stephen Small Limestone Quarry	Quarry Rd	Cheshire	C 1840	NRDIS;
CHS.913	Quarry Road	Quarry Rd	Cheshire	R 1850	NRDIS;
CHS.95	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	84 Quarry Rd	Cheshire	C 1910	NRDIS;
CHS.106	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	103-109 Quarry Rd	Cheshire	C 1910	NRDIS;
CHS.44	Cheshire Railroad Station	6 Railroad St	Cheshire	1849	
CHS.957	Cheshire Harbor Trolley Bridge	Reservoir Rd	Cheshire	R 1896	
CHS.55	Bowen, H. C. House	Richardson St	Cheshire	C 1860	
CHS.38	Burt - Farnum House	27-29 Richmond St	Cheshire	C 1860	
CHS.39	Saunders House	36 Richmond St	Cheshire	C 1845	
CHS.805	Burt Cemetery	Rt 116	Cheshire	C 1817	
CHS.906	Choquettas Bridge	Rt 116	Cheshire	1940	
CHS.905	Pumpkin Hook Bridge - Hook Arch Bridge	Rt 116	Cheshire	1929	

CHS.35	Lincoln, S. L. House	920 Sand Mill Rd	Cheshire		
CHS.57	Cheshire Old Grange Hall	56-64 School St	Cheshire	R 1920	
CHS.56	Wheelock, Jerome M. House	200 School St	Cheshire	R 1880	
CHS.3	Barker, Ezra Farm	South St	Cheshire	C 1785	
CHS.904	South Street Bridge	South St	Cheshire	1901	
CHS.2	Beechwood Rest Home	12 South St	Cheshire	1795	
CHS.1	Tiffany Green	38 South St	Cheshire	1790	
CHS.81	Turtle, Owen House	57 South St	Cheshire	C 1876	
CHS.80	Brown, Luther House	81-101 South St	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.902	Stafford Hill Memorial	Stafford Hill Rd	Cheshire	1927	NRIND;
CHS.18	Bowen, Valentine House	10 Stafford Hill Rd	Cheshire	C 1776	
CHS.19	Richardson - Brayton House	184 Stafford Hill Rd	Cheshire	C 1775	
CHS.804	Jenks - Wells Road Cemetery	Wells Rd	Cheshire	1841	
CHS.24	Jenks, Jesse Farm	761 Wells Rd	Cheshire	C 1791	
CHS.23	Coman, Daniel - Bennett, Joseph House	1051-1053 Wells Rd	Cheshire	C 1768	
CHS.22	Jenks, Jabes House	1524 Wells Rd	Cheshire	C 1825	
CHS.800	Cheshire Cemetery	West Mountain Rd	Cheshire	1859	
CHS.919	Dumont Memorial	West Mountain Rd	Cheshire	1897	
CHS.918	Jenks Family Memorial	West Mountain Rd	Cheshire		
CHS.25	Cole, R. M. House	18 West Mountain Rd	Cheshire	1820	
CHS.26	Mason - Tanner - Cropper House	195 West Mountain Rd	Cheshire	1815	
CHS.27	Whitmarsh, Toleman House	198 West Mountain Rd	Cheshire	C 1780	
CHS.29	Mason - Coles - Lamb House	231-233 West Mountain Rd	Cheshire		
CHS.28	Whitmarsh, Toleman Forge	232 West Mountain Rd	Cheshire	C 1800	
CHS.30	Weskit - Cole House	478 West Mountain Rd	Cheshire	C 1770	
CHS.31	Northrop, Stephen Jr. House	550 West Mountain Rd	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.32	Wood - Lamb House	612 West Mountain Rd	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.807	Wells - The Notch Cemetery	Windsor Rd	Cheshire	C 1773	
CHS.13	Nestle Down	77 Windsor Rd	Cheshire	C 1858	
CHS.14	Bloody Brook Tavern	1015 Windsor Rd	Cheshire		

Appendix E: Cheshire ADA Self-Evaluation of Open Space Properties

Cheshire Open Space and Recreation ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

January 2025



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission



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Introduction

Cheshire is a small town located in the westernmost county in the Commonwealth. With a population of approximately 3,258 people, the town offers a mix of rural and industrial characteristics.

It, like most of Berkshire County, is an aging community with a median age of 52.1 years old, according to the American Community Survey's Five-year Estimates, Table S0101.

Approximately 19.5% of the town's population self-identifies as having a disability, according to the American Community Survey's Five-year Estimates, Table S1810. Cheshire has a greater percentage of the population with a disability than its neighboring towns of Lanesborough and Adams and above the countywide population.

Percentage of the Population with a Disability

Town	Percent of population with a disability
Cheshire	19.5%
Berkshire County	14.9%
Adams	15.4%
Lanesborough	12.2%

Source: American Community Survey, 2018-2022 Five-year Estimates, Table S1810.

In the town's effort to increase access to goods and services, it conducted its first ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan in the spring of 2023. The evaluation looks at municipally owned properties only, including the town hall, library, police station, former elementary school, community center/senior center, and town garages.

The town subsequently began developing its Open and Space and Recreation Plan, which includes the development of a Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for its parks and open space areas.

The Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan provides the town with an inventory of barriers to accessibility, based on the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act and the subsequent 2008 amendment, and a prioritized list of actions to eliminate those barriers.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a civil rights law designed to eliminate discrimination based on disability status. Governments are required to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access. The town recognizes that increased accessibility is better for the community as a whole and strives to create an environment that is not only accessible but also welcoming.

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, a partner in developing the Open Space and Recreation Plan, evaluated the outdoor properties in the summer of 2024. The town's ADA Coordinator reviewed the report and helped determine priorities.

Federal, State, and Local Regulations

Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush signed the 1990 Americans with Disability Act, legislation built upon years of Civil Rights progress. The act prohibits discrimination based on disability in employment, state and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications.

The ADA is divided into five titles:

- Employment
- State and Local Government and Public Transportation
- Public Accommodations and Services Operated by Private Entities
- Telecommunications
- Miscellaneous Provisions

Title II applies to “public entities” and the programs, services, and activities they provide. Title II outlines the requirements for a town to complete a Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan and appoint an ADA coordinator.

In 1992, the U.S. Department of Justice issued 28 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 35, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Governmental Services, to implement Subtitle A of Title II. This regulation extended the prohibition of discrimination in federally assisted programs already established by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to all activities of state and local governments, including those that do not receive federal financial assistance.

The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADA Standards)

The ADA Standards outline the requirements necessary to make a building or other facility physically accessible to people with disabilities. The standards are a comprehensive guide that identifies what features will need to be accessible and list the specifications required to make them compliant.

The Department of Justice prioritizes accessibility features under four categories:

- Priority 1: Accessible Approach and Entrance
- Priority 2: Access to Goods and Services
- Priority 3: Access to Public Toilet Rooms
- Priority 4: Access to Other Items Such as Water Fountains and Public Telephones

Accessibility and Discrimination

Accessibility plays a significant role in providing equitable opportunities. Municipalities should strive to create an accessible, barrier-free environment to encourage community participation and uphold the

rights of people with disabilities. State and federal regulations require towns to remove structural barriers in public areas of existing facilities when such removal is readily achievable. Barriers typically found in public areas include routes of travel requiring the use of stairs, non-ADA compliant ramps, door widths that cannot accommodate the passage of a wheelchair, and the location of door handles that are too high.

Discrimination against individuals with disabilities occurs when a person is perceived differently, treated differently, and is excluded from opportunities available to their abled-bodied peers.

Physical barriers are discriminatory because they exclude that individual from reaching their desired destination or performing a specific task or action. All state and local governments are required to follow specific architectural standards in either the new construction or the alteration of existing buildings unless the corrective actions would result in undue financial or administrative burdens.

To promote inclusivity, public entities are required to make reasonable modifications. The modifications provide equality of opportunity, but the municipality cannot guarantee equal results.

Program Accessibility

Title II requires local governmental agencies to ensure that all their programs, services, and activities, when viewed in their entirety, are accessible to persons with disabilities. Program access is intended to remove physical barriers to the local governmental agency services, programs, and activities, but it does not require that the local governmental agency make each facility, or each part of any given facility, accessible. For example, a municipality does not need to ensure that every restroom in a facility is accessible, but it must post signage directing people with disabilities to accessible features and spaces.

Municipalities can achieve programmatic accessibility in a variety of ways. Local governmental agencies may choose to make structural changes or pursue alternatives to structural changes to achieve access. For example, the local governmental agency can move public meetings to accessible buildings and/or relocate services to accessible levels or parts of a building. Local governmental agencies must give priority to the alternatives that offer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting available and appropriate. Additionally, all newly constructed public facilities must be fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Undue Burden

A “grandfather clause” does not exist in the ADA; however, the law is flexible. Local government agencies must comply with Title II of the ADA and must provide program access for all individuals. A local governmental agency does not have to take any action to make a feature compliant to ADA standards if that agency can demonstrate that the alteration will result in the creation of a fundamental alteration to the program or service or will cause undue financial and/or administrative burden.

The determination of an undue burden can only be made by the leader of the local public agency (or a designee) and must be accompanied by a written statement outlining its reasoning. To establish that an alteration of a feature will cause undue financial and/or administrative burden, the town must conduct an

evaluation of all resources available for use in the program. The town's evaluation of resources must include the number of financial resources available, the effect of the expenses, the type and location of the facility, and the number of employees at the site. If an alteration of a feature would result in a burden, the public entity must take another action that would not result in an undue burden but would ensure that individuals with disabilities receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

Safe Harbor

Elements in facilities built or altered before March 15, 2012, that comply with the 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (1991 Standards) are not required to be modified to specifications in the 2010 Standards. For example, the 1991 Standards allow the maximum side reach control part of a paper towel dispenser to be 54 inches. The 2010 Standards lower that side reach range to 48 inches maximum. If a paper towel dispenser was installed prior to March 15, 2012, with its highest operating part at 54 inches, the paper towel dispenser does not need to be lowered to 48 inches because of the safe harbor provision.

Historic Properties

The ADA provides exemptions for historic properties that are listed, or are eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places or a property designated as historic under state or local law. A public entity is not required to make alterations that would destroy or threaten the historical significance of an historic property. In historic properties, towns can utilize alternatives outlined in 28 CFR 36.405 and ADAAG 4.1.7(3). An example of an alternative requirement would include providing displays and written information in a location where they can be seen by a seated person.

Curb Ramps

When public entities construct or alter roadways, they must install ramps to overcome physical barriers at the connection point between the roadway and a pedestrian walkway. When the municipality builds or alters sidewalks or walkways, it must install curb ramps or sloped areas wherever the sidewalk intersects with a roadway.

However, on existing roads and sidewalks that have not been altered, local governmental agencies may choose to construct curb ramps at every point where a pedestrian walkway intersects a curb, but they are not necessarily required to do so. Under program access, alternative routes to buildings that make use of existing curb ramps may be acceptable where persons with disabilities must only travel a marginally longer route.

Massachusetts Architectural Access Board – M.G.L. c.22 §13A

The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) is a state regulatory agency under the Executive Office of Public Safety responsible for developing and enforcing regulations to make public buildings accessible to, functional for, and safe for people of all abilities.

521 CMR is the state accessibility design standards promulgated by MAAB regarding accessibility. The regulation provides construction standards for work performed on public buildings in the Commonwealth. Local building inspectors are responsible for enforcement of the provisions.

All additions, reconstruction, remodeling, and alterations or repairs to existing public buildings are required to adhere to 521 CMR. If the work amounts to greater than 30% of the full and fair cash value of the building or costs more than \$100,000, then the entire building must include an accessible entrance, and, if toilet facilities, telephone and drinking fountains are provided at the facilities those too must comply.

Parks and Open Spaces

The ADA and 521 CMR are applicable to all public spaces, including recreational facilities and open spaces. All spaces should, at a minimum, feature an accessible route to the play or recreational area and all amenities must conform with the regulations, including reach ranges, height, toe and knee clearance, operating force, slopes, width, and maneuverability.

The 2010 ADA Standards includes specific standards for amusement rides, recreational boating facilities, fishing piers, golf facilities, miniature golf facilities, play areas, swimming pools, and shooting facilities.

Passive recreation and conservation areas are only partially addressed under the regulations. If features are provided, including parking, picnic tables, grills, benches, and walkways, then those must be compliant.

There is also a difference between compliant and fully accessible. For example, a playground with approximately 25% of its play structures are ground level is compliant but to be fully accessible, 50% would need to be ground level and all aerial structures need to be accessible using ramps.

Governments should consider the ADA Standards are minimum and seek to become as accessible as possible.

ADA Title II Self-Evaluation Requirements

The self-evaluation helps determine the adequacy of ADA compliance in public buildings, services, meetings, and programs. If the town decides there is an undue burden in providing access or services, such as a fundamental alteration of a building or service provided or a financial burden, state and local governments must ensure that those decisions are made properly and expeditiously.

The self-evaluation needs to include the persons consulted, problem areas, and a description of any modifications. The activities and requirements the town should evaluate are:

- All physical barriers to accessibility.
- Adequate access to public meetings.
- Construction and design standards.
- Access to historic buildings where reasonable.
- Program materials.
- Employment practices
- Programs, activities, and services.
- Access for TDD's and TTY's.
- Provisions for readers or interpreters and assistive technology is properly maintained.
- Availability of policies and practices.
- Procedures to evacuate individuals with disabilities during an emergency.

As for any community, transitioning into full ADA compliance is a long-term goal. Full ADA compliance can only be achieved through evaluating the existing conditions that present barriers to accessibility, and then carefully planning and providing support for the required improvements.

The state and federal government does not expect towns to transition into full compliance immediately; improvements should be planned as funding from various sources becomes available and coordinated to occur as other capital improvements are undertaken.

Evaluation of Town Policies and Procedures

Governments are required to establish local policies and procedures that will impact access to services and programs. Title II specifically requires towns to develop and publicize an ADA grievance procedure, post a public notice of non-discrimination, and appoint a staff member as the ADA Coordinator. .

ADA Coordinator

The town of Cheshire appointed Town Administrator Jennifer Morse to serve as the ADA Coordinator. The designation letter reads as followed:



TOWN OF CHESHIRE

80 CHURCH STREET | CHESHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS 01225

PHONE (413) 743-1690 | FAX (413) 743-0389

WWW.CHESHIRE-MA.GOV

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

ADA Coordinator Name: Jennifer Morse

Name of City/Town Department that ADA Coordinator Works: Town of Cheshire

Job Title: Town Administrator/Chief Procurement Officer

E-Mail: admin@cheshire-ma.gov

Phone: 413-743-1690 x. 100

Address: 191 Church Street, Cheshire, MA 01225

Date Appointed: July 1, 2024

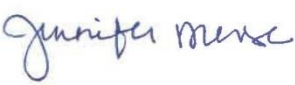
Is This Appointment: Permanent OR Acting

Does this ADA Coordinator report directly to the appointing authority? Yes OR No

Are the ADA Coordinator Duties Full-Time OR Part-Time

Direct Supervisor (Name and Title):
Shawn McGrath, Board of Selectmen
Chair

Appointing Authority Signature:  Date: 1/7/25

ADA Coordinator Signature:  Date: 1/6/25

Please send copy of completed form to:

**The Massachusetts Office On Disability, 1 Ashburton Place, Room 1305 or
email to mod-info@state.ma.us , or fax to 617 727-0965**

Grievance Policy

The town adopted a grievance policy on August 8, 2023.

The policy is as followed:



TOWN OF CHESHIRE

80 CHURCH STREET | CHESHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS 01225

PHONE (413) 743-1690 | FAX (413) 743-0389

WWW.CHESHIRE-MA.GOV

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Grievance Procedure under the American with Disabilities Act

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Cheshire. The Town's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination, such as the name, address, phone number of the complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to Ms. Jennifer Morse, ADA Coordinator, 80 Church Street, Cheshire, MA 01225, (413) 743-1690 x18.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Jennifer Morse or her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, Ms. Morse or her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Town and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Jennifer Morse or her designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Select Board or their designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Select Board or their designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Select Board or their designee will respond in writing and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by Ms. Jennifer Morse or her designee appeals to the Select Board or their designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the Town for at least three years.

Approved: August 8, 2023

Public Notice of Non-Discrimination

The town has a publicly available notice of non-discrimination. The notice is as follows:



TOWN OF CHESHIRE

80 CHURCH STREET | CHESHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS 01225

PHONE (413) 743-1690 | FAX (413) 743-0389

WWW.CHESHIRE-MA.GOV

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Non Discrimination Notice

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Town of Cheshire will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in the Town's services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Town does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Effective Communication: The Town will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Town's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Town will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all Town programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in Town offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a Town program, service, or activity, should contact Ms. Jennifer Morse, ADA Coordinator, 80 Church Street, Cheshire, MA 01225, (413) 743-1690 ext. 18, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Town to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a Town program, service, or activity is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Ms. Jennifer Morse, ADA Coordinator, 80 Church Street, Cheshire, MA 01226, (413) 743-1690 ext. 18. The Town will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Approved: August 8, 2023

Parks and Recreation Program Accessibility

The town does not manage any recreational programs and, therefore, there are no programs to assess. BRPC recommends that the town follows best practices regarding accessibility if it chooses to develop any recreational programs.

Commission on Disabilities

The Commonwealth considers a local Commission on Disabilities to be a best practice to oversee the implementation of accessibility upgrades and address concerns. The town of Cheshire has an active Commission on Disabilities.

Evaluation of Parks and Open Spaces

Farnams Causeway



There is adequate accessible parking on site.

Farnams Causeway is a park along Cheshire Reservoir providing fishing access, picnicking, and access to the state-owned and operated Ashwilticook Rail Trail.

All elements of the park are accessible.

Priority 1: Accessible Approach and Entrance

The 2010 ADA Standards, Section 208.2, requires properties with between 51 and 75 parking spaces such as Farnams Causeway to have at least three accessible spaces and Section 208.2.4 requires that one out of every six accessible spaces are

wide enough to accommodate a van.

The town has three accessible parking spaces at Farnams Crossing, one of which is van accessible according to Section 502.2. One does not have signage that complies with Section 502.6 and the van accessible spot does not contain language designating it for van accessibility.

502.6 Identification. Parking space identification signs shall include the International Symbol of Accessibility complying with 703.7.2.1. Signs identifying van parking spaces shall contain the designation "van accessible." Signs shall be 60 inches (1525 mm) minimum above the finish floor or ground surface measured to the bottom of the sign.

The parking lot is paved and there is an accessible route throughout the park, providing access to all of the elements.

Priority 2: Access to Goods and Services

The park provides four fishing piers, picnic tables, and benches for resting. Every element is connected with an accessible route and are or are located on firm and slip resistant ground.

The 2010 ADA Standards establishes design specifications for fishing piers in Section 1005. The requirements include that fishing piers are on accessible routes, handrails are provided at a 34-inch maximum height from the ground, barriers



The fishing piers are ADA compliant.



ADA complaint tables and benches are all located on an accessible route throughout the park.

extend 2 inches above the surface of the fishing pier, deck surfaces extend 12 inches beyond the surface of the trailing, there be sufficient toe clearance, and the turning space complies with 304.3.

The fishing piers at Farnams Causeway all complied with ADA standards.

The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board CMR 521 establishes further standards for recreational properties. CMR 521 Section 19.6.2 requires that at least 5% of tables are accessible. Farnams Causeway meets that standard.

Priority 3: Access to Public Toilet Rooms

There are two restrooms at Farnams Causeway. Both restrooms are located in the same building and connected to the accessible route.

Section 216.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards requires signs on permanent spaces to comply with Section 703, which outlines the tactile and braille requirements of signs and height and location of the signs placement.

216.2 Designations. Interior and exterior signs identifying permanent rooms and spaces shall comply with 703.1, 703.2, and 703.5. Where pictograms are provided as designations of permanent interior rooms and spaces, the pictograms shall comply with 703.6 and shall have text descriptors complying with 703.2 and 703.5.

There are no signs designating the restrooms. The town can increase accessibility by installing signs to assist people with a vision disability.

The restrooms are compliant in all other manners.

Priority 4: Access to Other Items Such as Water Fountains and Public Telephones

There are no other amenities at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



The bathrooms are ADA complaint but there is no signage.

Former Elementary School Playground



The playgrounds feature ground-level play elements.

The Adams Cheshire Regional School District shuttered the operations of Cheshire Elementary School in 2017. The town owns the building and property and it currently houses town offices, Youth Inc., and features three playgrounds and two ballfields for the public's use.

There are no accessible routes from element to element in the recreational spaces, rendering it inaccessible.

Priority 1: Accessible Approach and Entrance

There is one dedicated accessible parking spot on the property. The parking lot is not lined but the parking lots on the property are large enough to

accommodate more than 100 vehicles. Section 208.2 requires a minimum of five spaces for facilities with more than 100 spaces.

Table 208.2 Parking Spaces

Total Number of Parking Spaces Provided in Parking Facility	Minimum Number of Required Accessible Parking Spaces
1 to 25	1
26 to 50	2
51 to 75	3
76 to 100	4
101 to 150	5
151 to 200	6
201 to 300	7
301 to 400	8
401 to 500	9
501 to 1000	2 percent of total
1001 and over	20, plus 1 for each 100, or fraction thereof, over 1000

The one accessible parking space is designated by a sign but the sign is only 38-inches from the ground, which is not in compliance with 502.6.

502.6 Identification. Parking space identification signs shall include the International Symbol of Accessibility complying with 703.7.2.1. Signs identifying van parking spaces shall contain the designation "van accessible." Signs shall be 60 inches (1525 mm) minimum above the finish floor or ground surface measured to the bottom of the sign.



There is an accessible route to the recreational areas but not to the elements. The town should install pathways to the play elements.

Visitors can access the play areas by an accessible route from the entrance to the former school building to the play areas. However, there are no signs indicating where that accessible route is located.

Priority 2: Access to Goods and Services

The elements on the property are not accessible because there is no route providing a firm and slip-resistant surface to the elements. There is a paved surface that brings visitors close to two of the playgrounds but there is no connection between that path and the playgrounds.

Section 1008.2 of the 2010 ADA standards requires an accessible route throughout facilities and MAAB's

CMR 521 Section 19.7.

The property includes a small building the town used to provide concessions and changing areas during the winter when it installed a skating rink for public use. The building features a compliant ramp, although the wood is showing signs of wear which could soon create tripping hazards, but the ramp is not accessible because there is no route from the parking lot to the ramp.

The ADA requires 25% of a playground's structure to be ground level for compliance and the playgrounds meet that threshold. The 2010 ADA Standards Section 1008 provides in-depth details about the requirements of playgrounds, which the town should utilize if and when it decides to renovate the playgrounds.

Priority 3: Access to Public Toilet Rooms

There is access to portable toilets on the property. However, none of them are ADA compliant.

Priority 4: Access to Other Items Such as Water Fountains and Public Telephones

There are no other elements on site the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



A building visitors use while on the property, when open, has a ramp but there is not an accessible route to it.

Stafford Hill Tower



The tower is not located on an accessible route.

The Stafford Hill Tower is a 1927 memorial featuring scenic views. The 1.5-acre property provides an area for passive recreation. There are no other features there except for the tower and a memorial plaque marking the gravesite of Joab Stafford. The tower is recognized on the National Register of Historic Places and the town is not required to bring it into ADA compliance if the changes alter the historic nature of the structure.

The memorial is not accessible.

Priority 1: Accessible Approach and Entrance

The tower does not have any designated parking and the path to the tower is not on an accessible path as defined Section 206.2.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards.

206.2.1 Site Arrival Points. At least one accessible route shall be provided within the site from accessible parking spaces and accessible passenger loading zones; public streets and sidewalks; and public transportation stops to the accessible building or facility entrance they serve.

Priority 2: Access to Goods and Services

The property provides passive recreational opportunities for visitors. The tower is located in the middle of a mowed lawn, which does not have an accessible route to the element.

Priority 3: Access to Public Toilet Rooms

There are no restrooms located on the property.

Priority 4: Access to Other Items Such as Water Fountains and Public Telephones

There are no other elements on the property the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

Cheshire Cheese Monument



The town created a viewing platform for visitors to the monument.

The Cheese Monument commemorates the town's making of a mammoth piece of cheese and presented to United States President Thomas Jefferson in 1802. The statute is located on a quarter-acre lot in the downtown.

The statute is accessible because the monument is located along the town's compliant sidewalk system and the town provides an additional viewing platform, providing visitors the opportunity to move away from the path of travel.

Priority 1: Accessible Approach and Entrance

There is no dedicated parking on the property itself. However, it is located near parking for the

Ashuworthcook Rail Trail and public parking in the town's downtown area, both of which feature dedicated accessible parking spaces.

Priority 2: Access to Goods and Services

The town installed a viewing platform for visitors to the monument. The platform is a firm and slip-resistant surface.

Priority 3: Access to Public Toilet Rooms

There are no restrooms on the property.

Priority 4: Access to Other Items Such as Water Fountains and Public Telephones

There are no other elements on the property the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

Savoy Road Parcel

The town owns 6.6 acres of land along Savoy Road. The property is not currently accessible.

The land is natural forest currently and there is no indication that the public can utilize it. If the town decides to develop it, it should do so in an ADA compliant manner.

Priority 1: Accessible Approach and Entrance

There is no dedicated parking on the property.

Priority 2: Access to Goods and Services

There is no access to the property.

Priority 3: Access to Public Toilet Rooms

There are no restrooms on the property.

Priority 4: Access to Other Items Such as Water Fountains and Public Telephones

There are no other elements on the property the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



The parcel is currently undeveloped.

Evaluation of Cemeteries



The town owns multiple historic cemeteries dating back to the 1700s.

The town owns six cemeteries. The Cemetery Commission oversees the properties. While outside of the requirements of a Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for an Open Space and Recreation Plan, the town opted to evaluate the cemeteries the public has easy access to visit.

Two of the town-owned cemeteries are small, historic cemeteries that are not accessible to the public because they are landlocked among private properties. The town chose not to evaluate those because of those locational barriers.

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission evaluated two cemetery parcels located on West

Mountain Road (Cheshire Community Cemetery), and historic cemeteries located on Jenks Road, Ingalls Road, and Main Road.

All of the cemeteries are inaccessible because of a lack of dedicated accessible parking and accessible routes throughout the properties.

Cheshire Community Cemetery

The Cheshire Community Cemetery consists of two parcels on West Mountain Road. Both parcels feature a drivable route throughout the property but there is no dedicated parking. A maintenance garage is located on site but there is no ADA accommodation available.

The Cheshire Community Cemetery is still active and accepting burial requests.

Priority 1: Accessible Approach and Entrance

There is no dedicated parking on site.

Priority 2: Access to Goods and Services

There are no accessible routes throughout the cemetery.

Priority 3: Access to Public Toilet Rooms



The cemetery is still active and well maintained.

There are no restrooms located on the property.

Priority 4: Access to Other Items Such as Water Fountains and Public Telephones

There are no other elements on the property the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

Ingalls Road Cemetery

The Ingalls Road Cemetery is a small, historic cemetery along the side of the road. The grave plots are surrounded by a stone wall and there is limited access to the area.

Priority 1: Accessible Approach and Entrance

There is no dedicated parking on site.

Priority 2: Access to Goods and Services

There are no accessible routes throughout the cemetery.

Priority 3: Access to Public Toilet Rooms

There are no restrooms located on the property.

Priority 4: Access to Other Items Such as Water Fountains and Public Telephones

There are no other elements on the property the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



The cemetery on Ingalls Road is a historic site without any parking or other amenities.

Jenks Road Cemetery

The cemetery on Jenks Road is a historic cemetery that is the site of the first Baptist Church in Western Massachusetts. The cemetery features the grave sites of the original church founders, who organized it in 1769.

The gravestones are surrounded by a stone wall and there is limited access to the area.

Priority 1: Accessible Approach and Entrance

There is no dedicated parking on site.

Priority 2: Access to Goods and Services

There are no accessible routes throughout the cemetery.

Priority 3: Access to Public Toilet Rooms

There are no restrooms located on the property.

Priority 4: Access to Other Items Such as Water Fountains and Public Telephones

There are no other elements on the property the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



The cemetery on Jenks Road is not accessible.

North Cemetery

North Cemetery is a historic burial ground dating back to 1775. It is located along Route 8, a highly traveled thoroughfare through the county. It does not have dedicated parking nor any accessible routes to the gravesites.



North Cemetery is located on a main throughfare.

Priority 1: Accessible Approach and Entrance

There is no dedicated parking on site.

Priority 2: Access to Goods and Services

There are no accessible routes throughout the cemetery.

Priority 3: Access to Public Toilet Rooms

There are no restrooms located on the property.

Priority 4: Access to Other Items Such as Water

Fountains and Public Telephones

There are no other elements on the property the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

Transition Plan

The following table establishes timeframes and priorities for the town to eliminate barriers to accessibility.

Location	Barrier	Action	Responsibility	Priority	Timeframe
Farnams Road	No Signage on Accessible Parking Space	Install Accessible Parking Sign.	Recreation Committee	High	1-2 Years
Farnams Road	No Van Accessible Designated on parking space.	Install Van Accessible parking sign.	Recreation Committee	High	1-2 Years
Farnams Road	No Signage on Bathrooms	Install Bathroom Signs.	Recreation Committee	High	1-2 Years
Elementary School	Insufficient Accessible Parking Spaces	Add Accessible Parking Spaces.	Recreation Committee	Medium	3-5 Years
Elementary School	Sign is Too Low	Install New Sign.	Recreation Committee	High	1-2 Years
Elementary School	No Accessible Routes	Install Accessible Route To Play Elements.	Recreation Committee	Low	5+ Years
Elementary School	No Route to Ramp for Building	Install Transition Strip from Pavement To Ramp.	Recreation Committee	Medium	3-5 Years
Stafford Hill Tower	No Parking	Install Dedicated Accessible Parking.	Recreation Committee	Low	5+ Years
Stafford Hill Tower	No Accessible Routes	Install Accessible Route To The Tower.	Recreation Committee	Low	5+ Years
Cemeteries	No Designated Accessible Parking	Install Accessible Parking, Prioritizing Cheshire Community Cemetery.	Cemetery Commission	Low	5+ Years
Cemeteries	Install Accessible Paths Throughout	Install Accessible Paths Throughout the Property, Prioritizing Cheshire Community Cemetery.	Cemetery Commission	Low	5+ Years
Cemeteries	No Process To Request Accommodations	Install Signage Directing People Where They Can Request Accommodations.	Cemetery Commission	Medium	3-5 Years

Resources

Organizations

- Adaptive Environments, 374 Congress Street, Suite 310, Boston, MA 02210. (800) 949-4232 (v/tty); <http://www.adaptenv.org/>.
- American National Standards Institute, 1819 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. (202) 293.8020; Fax: (202) 293.9287; <http://www.ansi.org/>.
- The Access Board, 1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. (202) 272-5434 (v), (202) 272-5449 (tty), (202) 272-5447 (fax). Federal standards: <http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/adaag.htm>.
- Massachusetts Architectural Access Board, One Ashburton Place, Room 1310, Boston, MA 02108. (617) 727-0660 (v and tty), (617) 727-0665 (fax). State standards: http://www.state.ma.us/aab/aab_regs.htm.
- Massachusetts Office on Disability, One Ashburton Place, Room 1305, Boston, MA 02108. (617) 727-7440 or (800) 322-2020 (voice and TTY); <http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/mod>.
- National Center on Accessibility, Indiana University, 2805 East 10th St, Suite 190, Bloomington, IN 47408-2698. (812) 856-4422 (Voice), (812) 856-4421 (tty), (812) 856-4480 (Fax); <http://www.ncaonline.org/>.
- U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board ("The Access Board"), 1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. (800) 872-2253, (800) 993-2822 (tty), (202) 272-5447 (fax). Online at <http://www.access-board.gov>.

Publications

- *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design*; The Department of Justice
- *ADA Guide for Small Towns*; U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
- *36 CFR Part 1191: Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines; Recreation Facilities*. U.S.
- *Architecture and Transportation Compliance Board*. Federal Register (July 9, 1999). Washington, D.C.
- *36 CFR Part 1191: Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines; Play Areas*. U.S. Architecture and Transportation Compliance Board. Federal Register (April 30, 1998). Washington, D.C.
- *ADA Transition Plan Workbook*. State House Bookstore, State House, Room 116, Boston, MA 02133.
- *Americans With Disabilities Act Resource Guide for Park, Recreation, and Leisure Service Agencies, First Edition*. Lynn M. Casciotti, Editor. National Recreation and Park Association, Arlington VA, 1992.
- *Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 226, 101st Congress*. U.S. Government Printing Office, July 26, 1990.
- *Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access: Review of Existing Guidelines and Practices*. Barbara McMillen (editor). U.S. Department of Transportation, 1999.

- *Everyone's Nature: Designing Interpretation to Include All.* Carol Hunter. Falcon Press Publishing Co., Inc., Helena, Montana, 1994.
- *Play for All Guidelines: Planning, Designing and Management of Outdoor Play Settings for All Children.* Robin Moore *et al.* MIG Communications, 1992.
- *Reasonable Accommodation: Profitable Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.* Jay W. Spechler. St. Lucie Press, Delray Beach FL, 1996.
- *The Americans with Disabilities Act: A Review of Best Practices.* Timothy Jones. American Management Association Membership Publications Division, New York, 1993.
- *Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation: A Design Guide.* PLAE, Inc., Berkeley CA, 1993.
- *Universal Trail Assessment Coordinator Training Guide.* P. Axelson *et al.* Pax Press, Santa Cruz, 1997.

Potential Funding Sources for Implementation

- Massachusetts Office on Disability: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-on-disability>
- United States Department of Agriculture: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/community-facilities-programs>
- Community Development Block Grant – Architectural Barrier Removal: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/12/04/Architectural%20Barrier%20Removal.pdf>
- Complete Streets: <https://www.mass.gov/complete-streets-funding-program>
- MassWorks: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massworks>

Inventory Sheets

Location: Farnams Crossway

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	Comments/Transition Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	Yes
		Access to Open Spaces	Yes
		Back and Arm Rests	Yes
		Adequate number	Yes
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.	N/A
Trails		Surface material	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Rails	N/A
		Signage (for visually impaired)	N/A
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Shade provided	N/A
	All Play Equipment	Same experience provided to all	N/A

Play Areas (tot lots)	i.e. swings, slides		
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	N/A
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Berm cuts onto courts	N/A
	Equipment	Height	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
Spectator Seating		N/A	
	Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
Handrails			N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	Yes
		Handrails	Yes
		Arm Rests	Yes
		Bait Shelves	Yes
	Equipment	Handrails	No
		Fish Cleaning Tables	No
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	N/A
		Guided Hikes	N/A
		Interpretive Programs	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		No
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		No
PARKING -			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>		Yes	No
<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>			

Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	X		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	X		
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	X		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	X		
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance	X		
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A

At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A
STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<i>Stairs</i>			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"			N/A
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
<i>Doors</i>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A

Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules – No Restroom Available on Site			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	X		
<i>At least one Sink:</i>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	X		
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	X		
Extends at least 22" from the wall	X		
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high	X		
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	X		
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)	X		
<i>At least one Stall:</i>			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	X		
Stall door is 36" wide	X		
Stall door swings out	X		
Stall door is self-closing	X		
Stall door has a pull latch	X		

Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor	X		
Coat hook is 54" high			N/A
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall	X		
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	X		
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	X		
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet	X		
1¼" diameter	X		
1½" clearance to wall	X		
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	X		
Acid-etched or roughened surface	X		
42" long	X		
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor	X		
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			N/A
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor	X		
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A

Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the Floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign		X	
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed		X	
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high		X	
Letters and numbers raised .03"		X	
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color		X	
SWIMMING POOLS - accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			N/A
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			N/A
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>

Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			N/A
Floors are non-slip surface			N/A
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			N/A
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			N/A
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			N/A
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			N/A
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			N/A
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			N/A
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			N/A
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			N/A

PICNICKING

<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access	X		
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.	X		

Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	X		
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	X		
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	X		

Location: Elementary School Recreational Areas

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	Comments/Transition Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Access to Open Spaces	N/A
		Back and Arm Rests	N/A
		Adequate number	N/A
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.	N/A
Trails		Surface material	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Rails	N/A
		Signage (for visually impaired)	N/A
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Shade provided	N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	Yes

	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	No
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	Yes
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	No
		Berm cuts onto courts	No
	Equipment	Height	Standard Sizes
		Dimensions	N/A
		Spectator Seating	No
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Arm Rests	N/A
		Bait Shelves	N/A
	Equipment	Handrails	N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables	N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	N/A
		Guided Hikes	N/A
		Interpretive Programs	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		No
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		No
PARKING – There is no accessible parking on site.			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	

Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	X		
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>

Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	X		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	X		
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance	X		
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A

Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A
STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<i>Stairs</i>			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"			N/A
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
<i>Doors</i>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A

Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules – No Restroom Available on Site			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			N/A
<i>At least one Sink:</i>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			N/A
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			N/A
Extends at least 22" from the wall			N/A
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			N/A
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			N/A
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			N/A
<i>At least one Stall:</i>			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			N/A
Stall door is 36" wide			N/A
Stall door swings out			N/A
Stall door is self-closing			N/A
Stall door has a pull latch			N/A
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			N/A
Coat hook is 54" high			N/A

Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			N/A
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			N/A
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			N/A
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			N/A
1¼" diameter			N/A
1½" clearance to wall			N/A
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			N/A
Acid-etched or roughened surface			N/A
42" long			N/A
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			N/A
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			N/A
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			N/A
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A

If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the Floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			N/A
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high			N/A
Letters and numbers raised .03"			N/A
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			N/A
SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			N/A
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			N/A
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			N/A

Floors are non-slip surface			N/A
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			N/A
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			N/A
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			N/A
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			N/A
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			N/A
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			N/A
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			N/A
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			N/A

PICNICKING

<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			N/A
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			N/A
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			N/A
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant,			N/A

and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			N/A

Location: Stafford Hill Tower

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	Comments/Transition Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Access to Open Spaces	N/A
		Back and Arm Rests	N/A
		Adequate number	N/A
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.	N/A
Trails		Surface material	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Rails	N/A
		Signage (for visually impaired)	N/A
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Shade provided	N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	N/A

	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	N/A
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Berm cuts onto courts	N/A
	Equipment	Height	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
Spectator Seating		N/A	
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Arm Rests	N/A
		Bait Shelves	N/A
	Equipment	Handrails	N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables	N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	N/A
		Guided Hikes	N/A
		Interpretive Programs	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		No
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		No
PARKING – None provided			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	

Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>

Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water	X		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	X		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance	X		
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A

Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	X		
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A
STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<i>Stairs</i>			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"			N/A
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
<i>Doors</i>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A

Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules – No Restroom Available on Site			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			N/A
<i>At least one Sink:</i>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			N/A
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			N/A
Extends at least 22" from the wall			N/A
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			N/A
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			N/A
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			N/A
<i>At least one Stall:</i>			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			N/A
Stall door is 36" wide			N/A
Stall door swings out			N/A
Stall door is self-closing			N/A
Stall door has a pull latch			N/A
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			N/A
Coat hook is 54" high			N/A

<i>Toilet</i>			
18" from center to nearest side wall			N/A
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			N/A
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			N/A
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			N/A
1¼" diameter			N/A
1½" clearance to wall			N/A
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			N/A
Acid-etched or roughened surface			N/A
42" long			N/A
<i>Fixtures</i>			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			N/A
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			N/A
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			N/A
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<i>Floors</i>			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
<i>Drinking Fountains</i>			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A

If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the Floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			N/A
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high			N/A
Letters and numbers raised .03"			N/A
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			N/A
SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			N/A
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			N/A
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			N/A

Floors are non-slip surface			N/A
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			N/A
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			N/A
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			N/A
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			N/A
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			N/A
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			N/A
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			N/A
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			N/A

PICNICKING

<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			N/A - no tables provided.
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			N/A
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			N/A
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant,			N/A

and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			N/A

Location: Cheshire Cheese Monument

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	Comments/Transition Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Access to Open Spaces	N/A
		Back and Arm Rests	N/A
		Adequate number	N/A
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.	N/A
Trails		Surface material	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Rails	N/A
		Signage (for visually impaired)	N/A
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Shade provided	N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	N/A

	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	N/A
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Berm cuts onto courts	N/A
	Equipment	Height	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
Spectator Seating		N/A	
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Arm Rests	N/A
		Bait Shelves	N/A
	Equipment	Handrails	N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables	N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	N/A
		Guided Hikes	N/A
		Interpretive Programs	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		No
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		No
PARKING – No parking spaces on site.			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	

Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>

Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance			N/A
Disembarking area at accessible entrance			N/A
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	X		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	X		
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance	X		
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A

Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A
STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<i>Stairs</i>			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"			N/A
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
<i>Doors</i>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A

Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules – No Restroom Available on Site			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			N/A
<i>At least one Sink:</i>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			N/A
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			N/A
Extends at least 22" from the wall			N/A
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			N/A
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			N/A
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			N/A
<i>At least one Stall:</i>			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			N/A
Stall door is 36" wide			N/A
Stall door swings out			N/A
Stall door is self-closing			N/A
Stall door has a pull latch			N/A
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			N/A
Coat hook is 54" high			N/A

Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			N/A
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			N/A
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			N/A
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			N/A
1¼" diameter			N/A
1½" clearance to wall			N/A
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			N/A
Acid-etched or roughened surface			N/A
42" long			N/A
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			N/A
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			N/A
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			N/A
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A

If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the Floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			N/A
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high			N/A
Letters and numbers raised .03"			N/A
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			N/A
SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			N/A
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			N/A
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			N/A

Floors are non-slip surface			N/A
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			N/A
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			N/A
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			N/A
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			N/A
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			N/A
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			N/A
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			N/A
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			N/A

PICNICKING

<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			N/A - no tables provided.
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			N/A
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			N/A
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant,			N/A

and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			N/A

Location: Savoy Road Parcel

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	Comments/Transition Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Access to Open Spaces	N/A
		Back and Arm Rests	N/A
		Adequate number	N/A
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.	N/A
Trails		Surface material	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Rails	N/A
		Signage (for visually impaired)	N/A
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Shade provided	N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	N/A

	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	N/A
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Berm cuts onto courts	N/A
	Equipment	Height	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
Spectator Seating		N/A	
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Arm Rests	N/A
		Bait Shelves	N/A
	Equipment	Handrails	N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables	N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	N/A
		Guided Hikes	N/A
		Interpretive Programs	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		N/A
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		N/A
PARKING – No parking spaces on site.			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			N/A

Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			N/A
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			N/A
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			N/A
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			N/A
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)			N/A
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			N/A
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			N/A
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			N/A
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>

Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance			N/A
Disembarking area at accessible entrance			N/A
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed			N/A
No ponding of water			N/A
<i>Path of Travel</i>			
Path does not require the use of stairs			N/A
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant			N/A
3 ft wide minimum			N/A
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).			N/A
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch			N/A
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			N/A
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A
<i>Entrances</i>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance			N/A
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A

Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A
STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<i>Stairs</i>			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"			N/A
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
<i>Doors</i>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A

Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules – No Restroom Available on Site			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			N/A
<i>At least one Sink:</i>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			N/A
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			N/A
Extends at least 22" from the wall			N/A
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			N/A
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			N/A
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			N/A
<i>At least one Stall:</i>			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			N/A
Stall door is 36" wide			N/A
Stall door swings out			N/A
Stall door is self-closing			N/A
Stall door has a pull latch			N/A
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			N/A
Coat hook is 54" high			N/A

Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			N/A
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			N/A
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			N/A
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			N/A
1¼" diameter			N/A
1½" clearance to wall			N/A
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			N/A
Acid-etched or roughened surface			N/A
42" long			N/A
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			N/A
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			N/A
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			N/A
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A

If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the Floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			N/A
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high			N/A
Letters and numbers raised .03"			N/A
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			N/A
SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			N/A
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			N/A
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			N/A

Floors are non-slip surface			N/A
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			N/A
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			N/A
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			N/A
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			N/A
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			N/A
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			N/A
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			N/A
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			N/A

PICNICKING

<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			N/A
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			N/A
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			N/A
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant,			N/A

and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			N/A

Location: Cemeteries

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	Comments/Transition Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Access to Open Spaces	N/A
		Back and Arm Rests	N/A
		Adequate number	N/A
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.	N/A
Trails		Surface material	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Rails	N/A
		Signage (for visually impaired)	N/A
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Location from accessible parking	N/A
		Shade provided	N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	N/A

	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	N/A
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Berm cuts onto courts	N/A
	Equipment	Height	N/A
		Dimensions	N/A
		Spectator Seating	N/A
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	N/A
		Handrails	N/A
		Arm Rests	N/A
		Bait Shelves	N/A
	Equipment	Handrails	N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables	N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	N/A
		Guided Hikes	N/A
		Interpretive Programs	N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	No	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	No	
PARKING – No parking spaces on site.			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	

Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>

Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water	X		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).		X	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		Mostly clear pathways with a couple places maintenance can address.
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	X		No protruding objects.
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs		X	
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance			N/A
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A

Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A
STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<i>Stairs</i>			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"			N/A
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
<i>Doors</i>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A

Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A
RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules – No Restroom Available on Site			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			N/A
<i>At least one Sink:</i>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			N/A
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			N/A
Extends at least 22" from the wall			N/A
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			N/A
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			N/A
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			N/A
<i>At least one Stall:</i>			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			N/A
Stall door is 36" wide			N/A
Stall door swings out			N/A
Stall door is self-closing			N/A
Stall door has a pull latch			N/A
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			N/A
Coat hook is 54" high			N/A

Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			N/A
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			N/A
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			N/A
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			N/A
1¼" diameter			N/A
1½" clearance to wall			N/A
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			N/A
Acid-etched or roughened surface			N/A
42" long			N/A
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			N/A
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			N/A
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			N/A
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A

If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the Floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			N/A
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high			N/A
Letters and numbers raised .03"			N/A
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			N/A
SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			N/A
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			N/A
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			N/A

Floors are non-slip surface			N/A
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			N/A
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			N/A
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			N/A
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			N/A
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			N/A
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			N/A
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			N/A
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			N/A

PICNICKING

<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			N/A - no tables provided.
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			N/A
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			N/A
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant,			N/A

and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			N/A